

DAM SAFETY NEWS

National Disaster Recovery Framework

In September 2009, the Long- Term Disaster Recovery Working Group was established in order to improve disaster response. Composed of more than 20 Federal departments, agencies and offices, the Working Group was asked to develop operational guidance for recovery organizations at all levels of government and to make recommendations for improving the overall approach to disaster recovery. This guidance, *National Disaster Recovery Framework: Strengthening Disaster Recovery for the Nation* was published in 2011.

An update to the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) was issued this year. For the first time, the NRDF defines:

- core recovery principles,
- roles and responsibilities of recovery coordinators and other stakeholders,
- a coordinating structure that facilitates communication and collaboration among all stakeholders, guidance for pre- and post-disaster recovery planning and;
- the overall process by which communities can capitalize on opportunities to rebuild stronger, smarter and safer.

It also introduced six new recovery support functions that provide a structure to facilitate problem solving, improve access to resources, and foster coordination among State and Federal agencies, nongovernmental partners and stakeholders. Each Recovery Support Function has coordinating and primary Federal agencies and supporting organizations that operate together with local, State and Tribal government officials, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector partners.

Finally, the NDRF presented three positions that provide focal points for incorporating recovery considerations into the decision making process and monitoring the need for adjustments in assistance where necessary and feasible throughout the recovery process. Those positions are Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator (FDRC), State or Tribal Disaster Recovery Coordinators (SDRC or TDRC) and Local Disaster Recovery Managers (LDRM).

1. What is the National Disaster Recovery Framework?

The NDRF is a guide designed to ensure coordination and recovery planning at all levels of government before a disaster, and defines how they would work together, following a disaster, to best meet the needs of states/communities in their recoveries.

The guide is the product of efforts to meet requirements from two key directives: first, the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 which required FEMA to develop a National Disaster Recovery Strategy. Additionally, Presidential Policy Directive (PPD)-8, National Preparedness which directed FEMA to work with inter-agency partners to publish a National Disaster Recovery Framework and supporting operational plans as an integral element of a National Preparedness System.

2. What kind of outreach has been done to develop the National Disaster Recovery Framework?

The NDRF was developed in partnership, and through extensive outreach, with Fed-



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eral, state, local, tribal, private and non-profit partners who have a stake in the immediate and ongoing recovery following a disaster.

Outreach sessions, that began in Fall 2009, by the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Working Group resulted in thousands of comments and recommendations from more than 600 stakeholders representing Federal, Tribal, state and local governments, public and private organizations, including communities recovering from disasters. The feedback informed the development of the draft NDRF.

The draft NDRF was published in the Federal Register, in January 2010, for public comment. FEMA reviewed the more than 2,000 comments to further refine the final version of the NDRF.

3. What is new in the National Disaster Recovery Framework?

The NDRF, for the first time, defines how the nation will approach recovery. It establishes coordination structures, leadership roles and responsibilities, and guides recovery planning at all levels of government before a disaster happens.

The NDRF introduces recovery support functions that are led by designated federal coordinating agencies. These coordinating federal agencies support state, local, tribal and private sector groups with community planning and capacity building, regaining economic stability, rebuilding infrastructure, restoring health and social services, and natural and cultural resources and meeting the housing needs of residents displaced by disasters.

In addition, the NDRF recommends and identifies key recovery leadership positions designed to allow for more concentrated focus on community recovery. These include State/Tribal disaster recovery coordinators and local disaster recovery managers, as well as a Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator when needed for large-scale and catastrophic disasters.

4. When and where will the National Disaster Recovery Framework first be implemented?

FEMA has already begun field testing some of the concepts and constructs outlined in the NDRF in Alabama, Missouri and Tennessee. For example, in Alabama, the State aligned its coordination efforts with the Recovery Support Functions. FEMA and its partners followed suit, with the over arching Federal disaster recovery coordinator managing the overall recovery effort. In Tennessee, FEMA field tested the Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator and the Recovery Support Function concepts. In the Joint Field Office organizational structure the Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator role was established as a Deputy Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator for Long-Term Community Recovery (DFCO/LTCR). Also, several federal agencies deployed staff to participate in the National Disaster Recovery Framework field test. Staff from six agencies were mission assigned to the disaster and organized under the ESF #14 Coordination Branch: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Departments of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) already deployed to the disaster for response activities, also participated in Recovery Support Function activities.

The effective implementation of the NDRF, whether or not in the context of a presidential disaster declaration, requires interagency cooperation and engagement across all levels of government and support from nongovernmental organizations

and the private sector. FEMA and other federal agency partners will conduct various outreach efforts to make sure all stakeholders are briefed on the new concepts identified in the NDRF.

5. Has FEMA documented lessons learned and results from the field tests?

Yes. Based on this initial implementation of the Recovery Support Functions and leadership positions, it is clear that these NDRF concepts present an opportunity for increased collaboration and coordination of recovery resources.

Early indications show that states find it useful to align their organizational coordination structure closely to the Recovery Support Functions. In Alabama, the interagency coordination through the Recovery Support Functions has helped to leverage existing federal funds.

For instance, the recovery support function focusing on economic stability, led by the U.S. Department of Commerce working closely with state partners (the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency) identified a potential local economic impact when a major employer in the area was looking to move operations to another location outside the state due to the flood, and damaged incurred to their facility. Working together and collaborating with other partner agencies, the team was able to present a retention package to the employer, and secure 1,180 jobs in Ashland City and Cheatham County.

6. Why a Framework vs. Strategy?

FEMA believes that a Framework—a companion to the National Response Framework that outlines roles and responsibilities and a comprehensive organizing structure for disaster recovery—better describes what Congress requested in Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act.

Also, Presidential Policy Directive (PPD)-8, National Preparedness directs FEMA to work with interagency partners to publish a NDRF and supporting operational plans as an integral element of a National Preparedness System.

7. How will the National Disaster Recovery Framework change the way the Federal Government supports disaster recovery?

The NDRF establishes a clear structure for interagency and nongovernmental partners to align resources and work together to support recovery in a holistic, coordinated manner. The NDRF adds several new positions to the Joint Field Office structure for large-scale and catastrophic incidents, including the senior Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator that will allow for more concentrated focus on community recovery. These new positions will have the flexibility to be assigned to some of the hardest hit areas as a result of large-scale and catastrophic disasters so that as a community and a team the federal government can ensure a speedy and seamless recovery process.

8. How does the National Disaster Recovery Framework incorporate the whole community in recovering from disasters?

The NDRF incorporates whole community values and emphasizes core principles that reflect the whole community objectives, such as individual and family empowerment and partnership and inclusiveness. FEMA's Whole Community Core Values guide its approach to supporting disaster recovery, provide the basis for what the Agency does, and how FEMA personnel operate and interrelate with others.

9. How will FEMA ensure partners are familiarized and trained to implement National Disaster Recovery Framework?

The NDRF, which helps to better define how the nation will approach recovery, is not a finish line, but just one part of the ongoing mission to better meet the needs of disaster survivors. FEMA will continue to work with all of the stakeholders on ways to improve its programs, and better partner with the entire team, in the common goal to support communities as they recover. FEMA will also be conducting briefings over-time with key stakeholders and the public in each Region following the initial rollout of the NDRF.

10. How often will the National Disaster Recovery Framework be updated?

The NDRF is a living document that will continue to be updated to include annexes for each Recovery Support Function. FEMA will continue to work with all of the stakeholders on ways to improve our common goal to support communities as they recover. Updates to the NDRF will be implemented to incorporate these improvements, as needed or every five years.

For more information on the NDRF go to <http://www.fema.gov/national-disaster-recovery-framework>.

E-Permitting and Dams

DNR Dam Safety is pleased to announce the creation of the newest electronic water permit application, New Dam Construction, available through the Water Portal page at <http://dnr.wi.gov/permits/water/>. This new application will allow potential dam owners the ability to submit an application online, reducing time and effort for the applicant. The new system will cut paperwork and deliver quicker, more consistent permit decisions while improving environmental protection and better informing neighbors and others of such proposed projects, state water protection officials say.

"We see this new system as a win-win for everybody," says Pam Biersach, who leads the Bureau of Watershed Management. "We think it will help applicants get their decisions more quickly, reduce workload for our staff and ensure projects get a more consistent and comprehensive review to ensure protection of our lakes, rivers and wetlands."

Last year, DNR received applications for more than 2,000 permits for wetland and waterway projects alone. More complicated projects, such as dam projects require individually tailored permits instead of the "general permits" that prescribe general standards that avoid harming the environment and can be processed quickly.

Right now we're also in the process of adding Stormwater Construction Site and Confined Animal Waste Operation (CAFO) permits, Biersach says. Additional applications for dam repair and reconstruction, dam transfer and dam abandonment and removal will be added over the next year. Keep checking back to see when the new applications are available.

For questions related to the application requirements contact the Water Management Engineer for your County at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/dams/regionalcontacts.html>.

For questions related to the online Permitting system contact Margie Damgaard 608-266-0738 or Marjorie.Damgaard@wisconsin.gov.

Online Water Permits Portal Page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/permits/water/>. Look under the Waterway and Wetland tab and click on Dams – New Construction.

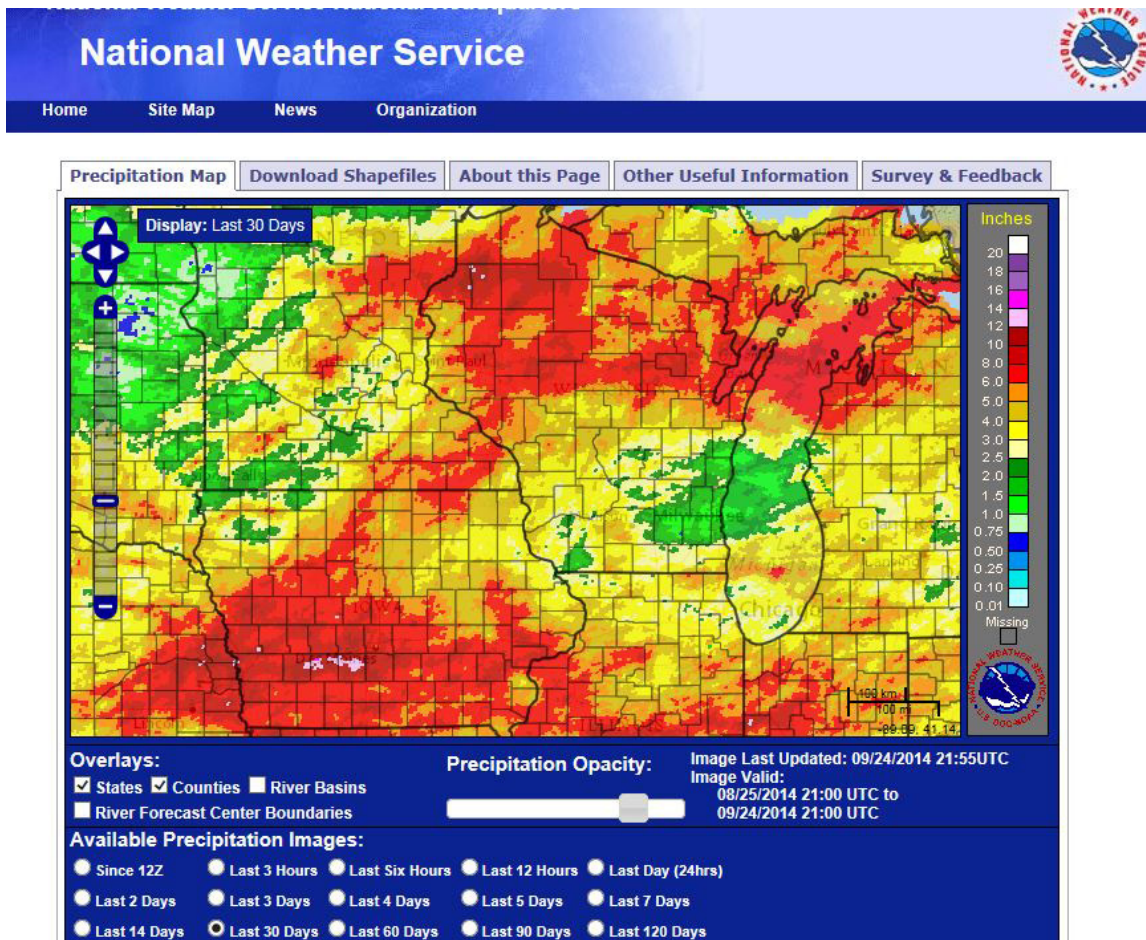
Fall Precipitation Outlook

The last 30 days have been wet in many parts of the US. The torrential rains occurring in California and Arizona have resulted in widespread flooding. The Midwest has had severe rain events as well. The graphic below shows rainfall amounts for the last 30 days in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Northern Wisconsin and the southern half of Iowa received over 8-10 inches of rain. In one rain event alone, parts of Iowa received 6-8 inches of rain within 24-hour period. The storm event was originally forecasted for Wisconsin, but shifted south, sparing the state from what could have been significant flooding do to the very wet conditions leading up to that storm.

Intense rainfall events can be disastrous for an unprepared dam owner. Dams can be severely damaged or destroyed if not operated correctly during periods of high water and heavy rainfall. High water levels in impoundments can damage the shoreline and structures.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is an excellent resource for both short-term and long-term forecasts. At www.weather.gov, dam owners/operators can obtain information on current weather conditions, see short-term forecast maps and review current river gauge readings. At its Climate Prediction Center website (www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov), the NWS provides long-term precipitation forecasts.

The NWS projects an even chance for above normal, normal or below normal precipitation in the latest 90 day forecast. It predicts an increasing chance for above normal precipitation through the winter.



Dam Emergency – Who Do You Call?

If despite your best efforts at maintaining your dam, an emergency arises, the first thing to do is to open your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and follow the steps outlined. If for some reason, you do not yet have an EAP for your dam and failure is imminent, then call 911 and be prepared to provide the following information to the 911 operator:

- name and title of the person reporting the incident;
- callback number of the person reporting the incident
- name/location of the dam including county, waterbody and nearest road; and
- present condition of the dam such as perceived problem, gate status or level of pond in relation to low point in the embankment.

***Under any circumstance, if failure is imminent, call 911 first!
And then call***

**Wisconsin Emergency Hotline
1-800-943-0003 (24 hour)
Press "1"
Ask for "DNR Duty Officer"**

DNR Staff Changes

Barton Chapman - Watershed Management

Bart was recently hired as a Dam safety/Floodplain Engineer in the Northern Region. He has a BS in Environmental Resources Engineering from Humboldt State University and a MS in Civil Engineering from Oregon State University. Prior to joining the DNR Wasterwater Program in 2012, Bart focused his career on the management of natural resources by integrating water resources engineering and natural sciences. He has in-depth training and experience in large-scale watershed restoration and has developed, designed and implemented the removal of 50 miles of low-volume forest roads and the restoration and enhancement of 60 acres of wetlands and 8 miles of trout streams. He worked as an Assistant Watermaster for the Oregon Department of Water Resources where he assisted the water user community in the interpretation and enforcement of Oregon Water Law and was responsible for implementing the Safety of Dams program for 72 jurisdictional dams in Southern Oregon. As a consulting engineer, Bart has worked on a variety of water resources projects requiring NEPA and Clean Water Act compliance including hydroelectric FERC relicensing, water and wastewater treatment, municipal water intake fish screening and large-scale streambank protection. Bart will be responsible for Iron, Vilas, Price, Oneida, Lincoln, Langlade, Forest and Florence counties.

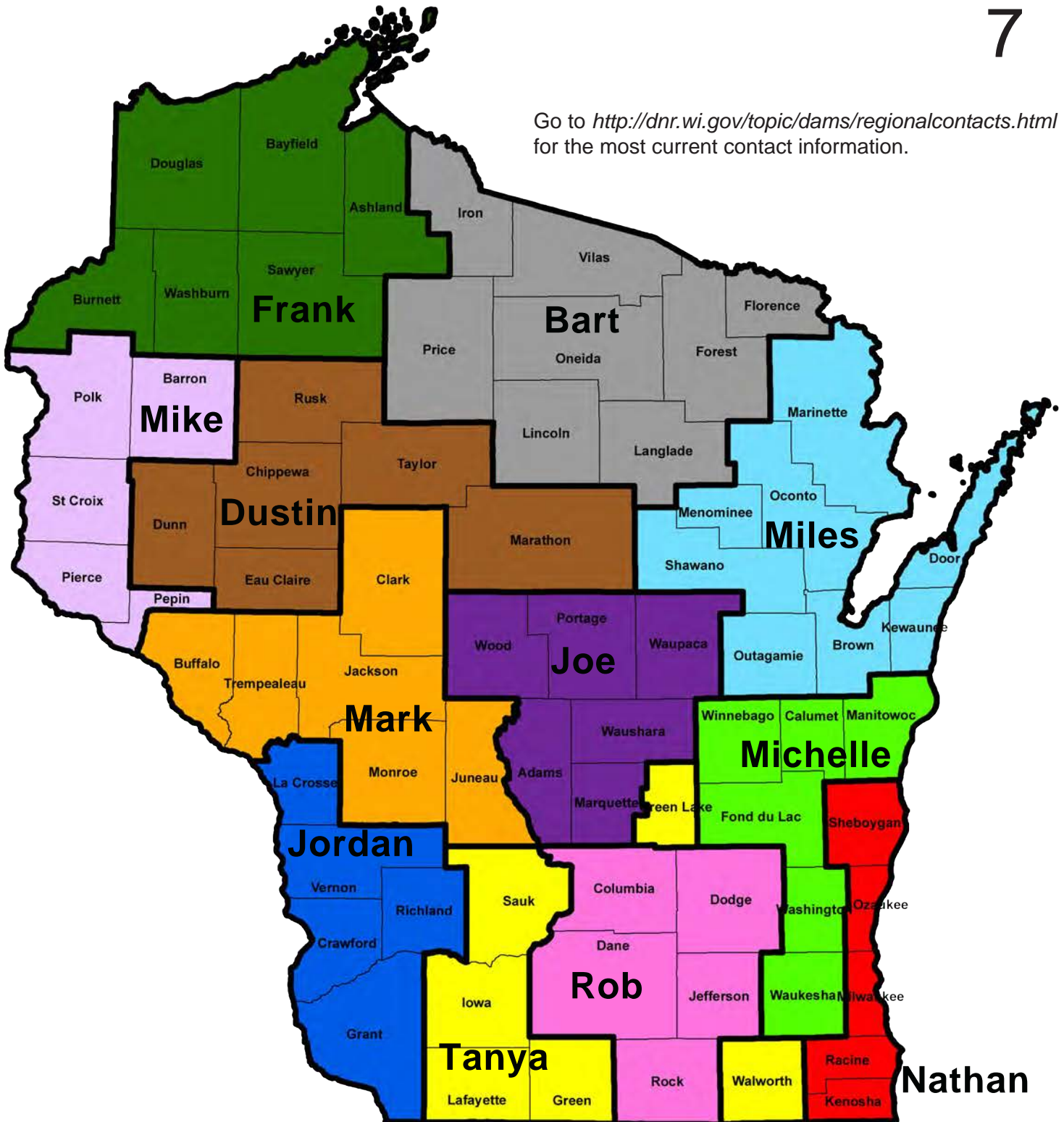
Contact information: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 107 Sutliff Ave., Rhinelander, WI 54501 (715) 365-8938, barton.chapman@wisconsin.gov.

The map on the following page can be used as a quick and easy guide in determining who is your Water Management Engineer as of September 2014. WMEs are your local contact regarding questions floodplain management and dams. WMEs also provide technical assistance regarding engineering questions. A complete list of the Water Management Engineers by county including telephone numbers, email addresses and mailing addresses can be found on the WDNR Floodplain Management website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/dams/regionalcontacts.html>.

Dam Failure and Flood Response Contacts

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Go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/dams/regionalcontacts.html> for the most current contact information.



The State Warning Center and the DNR Duty Officer can be reached at 1-800-943-0003, prompt 1; or directly at 608-576-5358; if there is no response, call the pager at 608 376 9049.

If the caller does not receive a call from the DNR D.O., contact David Woodbury at 608 271 5022 or his cell phone, 608-444-3976. If he is unavailable, request District 1 Dispatcher (608-846-2129) to attempt to raise the D.O. or LE staff by radio.