

Consequence Classification Ratings for Dams and Canals

Consequence Classification	Population at Risk	Loss of Life	Incremental Consequences of Failure	
			Environmental and Cultural Values	Infrastructure, Economics, and Other Property
Low	None Identifiable	No possibility of loss of life other than through unforeseeable misadventure	Minimal short-term loss or damage and no long-term loss or damage to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) fisheries, b) wildlife habitats, c) rare or endangered species, d) unique landscapes, or e) sites of cultural significance. 	Minimal economic losses mostly limited to the dam owner's property, and no potential for development within the dam inundation zone.
Significant	Temporary only ¹	Low potential for loss of life	No significant loss or damage to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) important fisheries, b) important wildlife habitats, c) rare or endangered species, d) unique landscapes, or e) sites of cultural significance. Restoration or compensation in kind for losses and damages highly possible.	Low economic losses affecting limited infrastructure and residential buildings, public transportation or services or commercial facilities, or some destruction or damage to locations used occasionally and irregularly for temporary purposes.
High	Permanent ²	10 or fewer	Significant loss or damage to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) important fisheries, b) important wildlife habitats, c) rare or endangered species, d) unique landscapes, or e) sites of cultural significance. Restoration or compensation in kind for losses and damages highly possible.	High economic losses affecting infrastructure, public transportation or services or commercial facilities, or some destruction or severe damage to scattered residential buildings.

For further information see: <http://aep.alberta.ca/water/programs-and-services/dam-safety/dam-safety-regulatory-system/dam-safety-regulatory-framework.aspx>

Consequence Classification	Population at Risk	Loss of Life	Incremental Consequences of Failure	
			Environmental and Cultural Values	Infrastructure, Economics, and Other Property
Very High	Permanent ²	100 or fewer	Significant loss or damage to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) critical fisheries, b) critical wildlife habitats, c) rare or endangered species, d) unique landscapes, or e) sites of cultural significance. Restoration or compensation in kind for losses and damages possible but impractical.	Very high economic losses affecting important infrastructure, public transportation or services or commercial facilities, or some destruction or severe damage to residential areas.
Extreme	Permanent ²	More than 100	Major loss or damage to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) critical fisheries, b) critical wildlife habitats, c) rare or endangered species, d) unique landscapes, or e) sites of cultural significance. Restoration or compensation in kind for losses and damages is impossible.	Extremely high economic losses affecting critical infrastructure, public transportation or services or commercial facilities, or some destruction or damage to residential areas.

¹ People are only occasionally and irregularly in the dam breach inundation zone, for example stopping temporarily, passing through on transportation routes, or participating in recreational activities.

² The population at risk is ordinarily or regularly located in the dam breach inundation zone, whether to live, work, or recreate.