

Standard Operating Guideline – Canal/Levee Failure Response

Standard Operating Guideline (SOG)

Title: **CANAL/LEVEE FAILURE RESPONSE PROCEDURES**

District Name: _____

Date Prepared: _____ Date Revised: _____

OBJECTIVE:

- Ensuring effective system-wide preventive, predictive, and rapid response actions
- Ensure periodic task accomplishment
- Identify potential/actual system problems
- Maintain canal/ditch water delivery
- Protection of adjacent property

RATIONALE / PURPOSE:

- Ensure mission capability
- Ensure system reliability
- Develop predictive maintenance programs
- Determine capital improvement budgeting
- Develop loss trend analysis
- Reduce property, liability, and injury/illness loss exposures
- Reduce revenue loss and/or O&M costs
- Ensure compliance with appropriate governmental regulations

METHODS / PROCEDURES:

(Note: Listed procedures are intended as guidelines only, and may not be applicable for all Districts or situations).

Before Incident

- Develop and implement call out system to personnel available to respond as needed.
- Keep equipment prepared and staged to respond quickly.
- Keep emergency equipment available as needed for response.

During Incident

Road washout/hazard:

- Notify proper agency or road hazard/closure.
- Close road if necessary follow proper traffic control procedures.
- Document hazard control procedures on site of incident (including notes, photos, and traffic control inspections).

Standard Operating Guideline – Canal/Levee Failure Response

- Report to District, request equipment for bank repair.
- Notify affected operations nearby (farmers, homeowners, and businesses).
- Notify JPIA of incident as soon as possible.
- Collect data/photos as needed for accident report.
- Determine the cause of the incident.
- Document what was done to stop or reduce water flow from canal breach, reduce damages.
- Document what warnings/notifications were done.
- Perform repairs following District standards for soil compaction and setback requirements.

After Incident

- Notify JPIA of incident and possible claims.
- Review incident at safety meeting for improvements.
- Modify procedures and make improvements to avoid similar incidents.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

An effective maintenance program can help to prevent damage to property, the environment, injury to employees and the public, and will help to:

- Preclude system and equipment damage
- Preclude property and environmental damage
- Facilitate operations and maintenance personnel safety

Identification of safe work practices among employees should include:

- Traffic control on job sites in the field
- Fall protection on construction and excavation projects
- Employee training and associated documentation

COST/ BENEFIT:

- Reduce water and associated revenue losses.
- Preventive maintenance and loss trend data would reduce facility, equipment, and system failures.
- Avoid costly liability, property, and injury/illness losses.
- Create a manageable capital improvement budget to effectively address canal failures.
- Reduce preventable expenditures.

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INSPECTION FORMS / CHECKLISTS / DOCUMENTATION:

- Leak/Break/Damage Checklist
- Canal Inspection Items
- Canal Breach Report
- Canal Structure Inspection Form
- Canal and Levee Self-Audit Checklist

REFERENCES:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Levee Owner's Manual for Non Federal Flood Control Works, March 2006, Section 2.6.