

Hosler Dam Early Warning Siren System: Frequently Asked Questions



Where is Hosler Dam?

Hosler Dam is located high above Lithia Park at Reeder Reservoir, Ashland's primary water source.

Why do we need a warning system?

Hosler Dam is regulated by The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Due to the proximity of the dam to the city and the relatively short evacuation notice period, FERC required the City to install an audible emergency warning system to alert the public of flooding from a dam failure.

Could the dam break?

Numerous studies have been conducted on Hosler Dam to determine its stability and potential for failure. Tests using scenarios of a major earthquake and the flooding of water over the top of the dam both indicate that the dam would not be damaged.

While either scenario is extreme and unlikely, it is nevertheless important to have a warning system in place should the unthinkable occur.

What is the flood path?

If the dam failed, Ashland Creek would flood Lithia Park, portions of Granite Street, Nutley Street, Winburn Way and the Plaza and roughly cover the area between Oak Street and Helman Street. The excess water would cause Bear Creek to flood and likely cover the bridge at Oak Street and Eagle Mill.

What should we do when we hear the alarm?

Listen carefully to the message. One of these three different messages will sound:

- "This is a test of the emergency warning system. This is only a test."
or
- "Attention: Evacuate, Evacuate, Evacuate, Move to high ground immediately."
or
- "Attention this is an all clear, repeat all clear."

Where are the sirens located?

There are four sirens: one in Lithia Park near the Parks and Recreation Department, one on top of the Bowmer Theatre near the Plaza, one on Nevada Street near the Dog Park, and one on North Main near Mike's Muffler.

When does testing occur?

The sirens are tested quarterly on the first Monday at 12:00 noon. When tested in "loud" mode, public notification is provided. When tested in "silent" mode, no notification is provided.



Hosler Dam

Early Warning System

For more information:

Public Works
City of Ashland
488-5587

publicworksinfo@ashlandoregon.gov



NOTE: A fourth siren is located on North Main near Valley View Road.

The City of Ashland maintains and operates a siren warning system, to be used to alert residents should Hosler Dam, located at Reeder Reservoir, fail or be in danger of failing.

Numerous studies have been conducted on Hosler Dam to determine its stability and potential for failure. Fortunately, the dam was very well built and structural analysis using scenarios of a major earthquake and flood indicate that the dam would not be damaged enough to completely fail.

Should the unthinkable occur, the alarm will sound for 60 seconds followed by a message. The alarm and message will be repeated for a total of three times. This will alert residents in the dam's flood emergency path to evacuate the area.

