

Teton Dam Catalyst for Change

The Teton Dam breach led to significant changes in dam safety measures. The tragedy became a catalyst for the creation of Reclamation's Safety of Dams Program—now a model for dam safety all over the world.

The goal: long-term stability of dams to protect lives and property, and to ensure the physical integrity of Reclamation dams. The program authorizes modification of Reclamation dams based on new hydrological or seismic data, or state-of-the-art changes in the criteria for dam safety.

As of 2025, Reclamation's Safety of Dams program supports more than 365 high hazard dams and has completed dam safety modifications to more than 50 dams.

The Safety of Dams Program remains committed to ensuring the safety of every Reclamation facility and continues to evolve to meet emerging challenges and standards.

To learn more, please visit
www.usbr.gov/pn/snakeriver/dams/uppersnake/teton/index.html
www.usbr.gov/mp/sod/index.html

The Safety of Dams Act of 1978 continues to safeguard Reclamation dams and reduce public safety risk.



Dam Safety Saves Lives

Inspections are part of the Bureau of Reclamation's comprehensive review process for evaluating the physical condition, seismic activity, hydrologic loading, and internal erosion of its dams.

Teton Canyon Partners

