



Dam Safety Fact Sheet

“To act in an environmentally conscious manner to foster a healthy lake for wildlife and membership enjoyment.”

No One is permitted on the Loch Lomond Dam and Spillway

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL WITH SPECIAL PERMISSION ARE THE ONLY PERSONS PERMITTED ON THESE STRUCTURES.

- * **The areas immediately adjacent the Dam and Spillway are OFF LIMITS; NO, Recreational Use !**
- * **Concrete, stones, rip rap, metal and other kinds of construction materials make up the Dam area.**
The Nature of this structure is inherent to Slip and Falls.
- * **Dams, and spillways** present a safety hazard to the public because of their capability of producing **dangerous recirculating currents**, large **hydraulic forces**, and other **hazardous conditions** sufficient to trap people fallen from paddle craft, fisherman, and swimmers during high water periods.
- * **A spillway** is a structure used to provide the controlled release of water from a **dam** or levee into a downstream area, typically the riverbed of the dammed river itself.
- * **Dams** are **dangerous to small boats and paddle craft** because of the current created during high water above and below the **dam and spillway**. Use caution when nearing the Dam and the Spillway during periods of high Water. Watercraft enthusiasts must be wearing Life Jackets and have other water safety devices on hand in the watercraft itself in case of EMERGENCY!
- * **What is the difference between a dam, a weir and spillway?**
 - Our earthen Dam** is a kind of levee that holds back 375 Acre Feet of water.
 - A fish weir** is a barrier constructed across our spillway to keep fish on the upstream side. A fish weir is in place on our Spillway. The water flows through the **weir** keeping fish in our lake. Currents and pressures are generated during high water flows.
 - Our dam** has a **spillway**, a special structure, where excess water flows downstream to other lakes.
- * **IN COMBINATION:** The Dam, Spillway and Fish Weir can easily have currents and hydraulic pressures that can over power people during high water if they are not careful and keep away from moving water.

Answer and Explanation: The major hazard that dams could create is: **recirculating current** at the surface and along all parts of the dam at the top and bottom. Any type of Dam that holds back water, have depths and currents, that can be fatal. All dams/spillways with the release of water can be extremely dangerous. Water movement could cause currents and entrapments for water enthusiasts during high water. High water creates a danger and to paddlers, tubers, fishermen, swimmers, boaters as well as our first responders.

- * **What should you do if your small craft capsizes in swift water?**
 - * Float on the upstream side of your craft.
 - * Do not attempt to stand or walk in slow or swift-moving water. ...
 - * Float on your back with your feet and arms extended. ...
- * If the water is cold, take all necessary precautions to avoid hypothermia.