

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is Hosler Dam?

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

Why do we need a warning system?

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulates Hosler Dam.

Because of the proximity of the dam to Ashland and the relatively short evacuation notice, FERC required the City to install an audible emergency system.

How much did it cost?

\$254,000

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 three different messages will sound:

- “This is a test of the Hosler Dam warning system. This is only a test.”
or
- “Hosler Dam Emergency. Evacuate the flood hazard zone immediately.”
or
- “Hosler Dam is secure. It is safe to return to the flood hazard zone.”

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.

Will the sirens be tested again soon?

Yes, the sirens will be tested again on Monday June 2 at 12:00 noon, and Monday October 6. It is likely that further testing will occur after the first of the year.

What happens next?

Now that the sirens have been installed the next step is to develop evacuation routes and signage. This information will be made available when the plan is completed.



Hosler Dam

Early Warning System

For more information:

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is completed.



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Dear Ashland Neighbor,

As you know, the City of Ashland recently installed a warning system, which will 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 in 1925. 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 plan in place.

Should the unthinkable occur, the alarm will sound for 60 seconds followed by a message and then the alarm and message will be repeated for a total of eight times. This will alert residents in the dam's flood emergency path to evacuate the area. Approximately 450 homes are located in that area, including yours.

The City is currently developing an emergency flood evacuation plan with defined routes, signage, designated shelters and more. The community will be apprised as the plan develops.

This flyer shows a map of the flood emergency path and some commonly asked questions.

Sincerely,

NOTE: A fourth siren is located at Mike's Muffler on North Main.

