

## Inspecting Earthen Dams

If your facility has an earthen dam, when was the last time it was inspected? Even if your lake or pond measures only a couple of acres, the amount of water released from a collapse could endanger people and property downstream. One facility's dam failed when numerous other lake dams in a region collapsed at about the same time, including dams upstream from the facility. Luckily, no one was killed, but many homes were flooded. Try figuring out who is responsible for what in this situation and you'll need Prozac!

Rick Stryker wrote an excellent article on dam safety in the Building Principles section of the July/August issue of *Camping* magazine. You can read the article at [www.acacamps.org/campmag](http://www.acacamps.org/campmag). Rick makes some important points about maintaining and inspecting the dam, who to call (and who not to call) for professional assistance, and factors that can compromise the strength of a dam. Now that we're in the middle of another hurricane season, investing the time and money in your lake dam could save you lots of problems downstream.

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If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at [safety1st@markelcorp.com](mailto:safety1st@markelcorp.com).