OVERVIEW

The great diversity of the nation’s critical infrastructure provides for significant physical and economic resilience in the face of terrorist attacks, natural disasters, or other emergencies. However, this vast and diverse aggregation of highly interconnected assets, systems, and networks may also present an attractive array of targets to domestic and international adversaries and magnify greatly the potential for cascading failure in the wake of catastrophic natural or human-caused disasters. Failure or disruption of the nation’s critical infrastructure can threaten national security, result in mass casualties, weaken the economy, and damage public morale and confidence.

Improvements in protection and resilience of the nation’s dams and levees can make it more difficult for adversaries to launch destructive attacks, as well as lessen the impact of any attack or other disaster that does occur and provide greater resilience in response and recovery. Dam and levee owners and operators have decades of experience planning for and responding to natural disasters as well as operational failure and disruption.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency, as the Sector Risk Management Agency for the Dams Sector, collaborated with sector partners to develop a series of web-based independent study (IS) training courses to provide owners and operators and response personnel an opportunity to learn at their own pace about concepts to enhance protection and resilience at sector facilities. As described in this fact sheet, these courses provide information about assessing risks to facilities, understanding common security threats and vulnerabilities, implementing effective protective programs, and improving incident response capabilities within an all-hazards framework. The courses are designed for Dams Sector facility owners and operators, with emphasis on personnel seeking the fundamentals of the course topics. The courses may also be relevant to response personnel that may be called to respond to an emergency at a dam project.

For additional information, contact the Dams Sector Management Team at DamsSector@cisa.dhs.gov.

COURSES

IS-870a Dams Sector: Crisis Management

This course addresses crisis management activities as an important component of an overall risk management program and provides dam and levee stakeholders with recommendations to assist in the development of various plans focused on enhancing preparedness, protection, recovery, and resilience capabilities. Course content describes the purpose and basic elements of emergency action plans, recovery plans, and continuity plans and addresses the basic elements of an effective exercise program. This course is organized into the following modules:

- Risk Management and the Dams Sector
- Crisis Management Programs: Plans
- Crisis Management Programs: Exercises

IS-871a Dams Sector: Security Awareness

This course provides information to enhance the ability to identify security concerns, coordinate proper response, and establish effective partnerships with local law enforcement and first responder communities. The training course describes common security vulnerabilities, potential indicators of threats, surveillance detection methods, and reporting of incidents and suspicious activities. This course is organized into the following modules:
• Common Security Vulnerabilities
• Potential Indicators of Threat Activities
• Reporting Incidents and Suspicious Activities

**IS-872a Dams Sector: Protective Measures**

This course addresses protective measures related to physical, cyber, and human elements and describes the importance of these measures as components of an overall risk management program. Course content describes the basic elements of the risk management model and discusses the steps required to develop and implement an effective protective program. This course is organized into the following modules:

• Protective Programs
• Risk Management and Reduction Strategies
• Protective Measures

**AVAILABILITY**


Due to the sensitivity of the information provided within IS-871a Dams Sector: Security Awareness and IS-872a Dams Sector: Protective Measures, both courses have been designated as “For Official Use Only” and are thus only accessible through the Homeland Security Information Network–Critical Infrastructure (HSIN-CI) Dams Portal. For access to the HSIN-CI Dams Portal, email the Dams Sector Management Team at DamsPortal@hq.dhs.gov.