

ICOLD2026 Guadalajara, Mexico, International Symposium
Theme | Water, Energy, and Society: The Evolving Role of Dams in a Changing World
ABSTRACT TEMPLATE

PAPER TITLE (Capitalize the first letter of all major words)

Guidance for Emergency Management for Dam Safety – Global Perspectives and Practices

Relevant Topic: (Highlight Selected Topic in Bold font)

- *Water Planning, Water Management, and Climate Resilience*
- ***Dam Safety Policy and Governance***
- *Dam Construction and Rehabilitation: Innovation and Lifecycle Extension*
- *Dam Performance Monitoring*
- *Flood Resiliency in Developed and Developing Countries*
- *Sedimentation Management and Reservoir Longevity*
- *Fish Passage, Biodiversity & Environmental Integration*
- *Community Engagement in Dam Development*
- *Tailings Dam Safety*
- *Dam Decommissioning & Removal*

AUTHORS

Primary Contact Author (Author Full Name, Company Affiliation/Employer, Address, Phone, email)

Non Okumura, Civil Engineer, Sweco, Gjörowellsgatan 21A, 112 60 Stockholm, Sweden, +46 76 136 17 43, non.okumura@sweco.se

Is Primary Author a Young Professional? **YES** / NO (Highlight YES in Bold font if under 40 years old)

Co-Author Information (Author Full Name, Company Affiliation/Employer, Address, Phone, email)

Merlin Davis, Senior Reservoir Engineer, Canal and River Trust, The Toll House, Delamere Terrace, Little Venice, London, W2 6ND, +447484912883, merlin.davis@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Co-Author Information (Author Full Name, Company Affiliation/Employer, Address, Phone, email)

Anna Engström Meyer, Senior Advisor Dam Safety, SwedEnergy, Olof Palmes gata 11, 101 53 Stockholm, Sweden, +46 70 164 44 13, anna.engstrom.meyer@energiforetagen.se

Co-Author Information (Author Full Name, Company Affiliation/Employer, Address, Phone, email)

Tony Bennett, Senior Dam Safety Consultant, KGS Group, Suite 301A - 1001 William St Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6M1, Canada , +1 416 938-9747, TBennett@kgsgroup.com

ABSTRACT: Abstract shall be no more than 300 words and cannot include figures, tables, drawings, references, or equations. Abstracts should provide a brief overview of the paper, highlighting relevance to the selected topic, key findings/conclusions, and significance to the industry. Provide Spanish translation of abstract in the provided space to aid in review and selection.

PRESENTATION & PUBLISHED PAPER

or

PRESENTATION ONLY

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Primary Author Name:

Non Okumura

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ENGLISH VERSION OF ABSTRACT:

The ICOLD Technical Committee I on Public Safety and Emergency Management is working towards a bulletin on emergency management for dam safety. To identify the requirements for this bulletin, the committee has reviewed the state of practice on emergency management for dam safety in various countries around the world. Factors such as legal frameworks, geography, dam types, hazards, and population distribution influence how emergency management is defined and implemented. While many regions have detailed regulations and guidelines—often directed at dam owners and operators, others lack such frameworks entirely, underpinning the need for a general, adaptable approach. The Committee has reviewed literature covering regulations, standards and industry guidelines which were available in English and Spanish. Furthermore, the Committee sent out questionnaires and conducted interviews with various national committees and other technical committees. Workshops held during the 2023 and 2024 ICOLD Annual General Meetings were also used to gather information. The results from the questionnaires and interviews have identified some common challenges to emergency management. These include lack of resources such as appropriate resource allocation, maintaining skilled personnel, and engaging with communities downstream.

The paper provides an overview of dam owners' responsibilities regarding developing, sustaining and updating plans, assessing preparedness, integrating lessons from incidents and exercises. This paper illustrates some examples of international and national regulations and guidelines, including lessons-learned from incidents and accidents. The paper also points out significant gaps in the existing global guidance, particularly in areas such as cross-border coordination and recovery planning.

SPANISH TRANSLATION OF ABSTRACT:

El Comité Técnico I de ICOLD sobre Seguridad Pública y Gestión de Emergencias está trabajando en un boletín sobre gestión de emergencias para la seguridad de presas. Para identificar los requisitos de este boletín, el comité ha revisado el estado de la práctica en la gestión de emergencias para la seguridad de presas en varios países de todo el mundo. Factores como marcos legales, geografía, tipos de presas, riesgos y distribución de la población influyen en cómo se define e implementa la gestión de emergencias. Mientras que muchas regiones tienen regulaciones y directrices detalladas, generalmente dirigidas a los propietarios y operadores de presas, otras carecen completamente de estos marcos, subrayando la necesidad de un enfoque general y adaptable. El Comité ha revisado literatura que cubre regulaciones, estándares y directrices de la industria disponibles en inglés y español. Además, el Comité envió cuestionarios y realizó entrevistas con varios comités nacionales y otros comités técnicos. También se utilizaron talleres realizados durante las Reuniones Generales Anuales de ICOLD 2023 y 2024 para recopilar información. Los resultados de los cuestionarios y entrevistas han identificado algunos desafíos comunes en la gestión de emergencias. Estos incluyen la falta de recursos, como una asignación adecuada de recursos, mantenimiento de personal capacitado y participación de las comunidades aguas abajo.

El documento proporciona una visión general sobre las responsabilidades de los propietarios de presas en cuanto al desarrollo, mantenimiento y actualización de planes, evaluación de la preparación, integración de lecciones derivadas de incidentes y ejercicios. Este documento ilustra algunos ejemplos de regulaciones y directrices internacionales y nacionales, incluyendo lecciones aprendidas de incidentes y accidentes. El documento también señala importantes lagunas en la guía global existente, particularmente en áreas como la coordinación de fronteras y planificación de la recuperación.