

HAZARD CLASSIFICATION OF NRCS STRUCTURES

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NEM Section 520.21

Dams are classified according to the potential hazard to life and property if the dam should suddenly breach or fail.

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Ponds



Hazard Classification

Class (c)--Dams where failure may cause loss of life or serious damage to homes, industrial and commercial buildings, important public utilities, main highways, or railroads.

Ponds



Hazard Classification

Class (b)--Dams in predominantly rural or agricultural areas where failure may damage isolated homes, main highways, or minor railroads or interrupt service of relatively important public utilities.

Ponds



Hazard Classification

Class (a)--Dams in rural or agricultural areas where failure may damage farm buildings, agricultural land, or township and country roads.

WHAT IS A COUNTRY ROAD????

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Ponds



Hazard Classification

NRCS policy provides no detailed clarification defining country roads, main highways or minor railroads. The decision is left up to each State Conservation Engineer to interpret and determine the appropriate definition acceptable within the state.

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Hazard Classification

IN GEORGIA:

A COUNTRY ROAD IS:

- 1. An unpaved private or county maintained road.**
- 2. NOT utilized as a school bus route or for emergency services.**
- 3. Traveled infrequently (Less than 20 cars/day).**

If any of these conditions are not met, the road would not be considered a country road.

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Hazard Classification

PRELIMINARY RULE OF THUMB FOR HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES:

- 1. Houses or commercial buildings within 1 mile downstream of the dam that have finished floor levels less than 4/5 of the estimated overall dam height above the floodplain – PROBABLE Hazard B or C.**
- 2. Houses or commercial buildings between 1 and 2 miles downstream of the dam that have finished floor levels less than 2/5 of the estimated overall dam height above the floodplain – PROBABLE Hazard B or C.**

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PRELIMINARY RULES OF THUMB FOR ROADS:

1. Road less than $\frac{3}{4}$ mile downstream – PROBABLE Hazard B.
2. Road $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to 2 miles downstream – POTENTIAL Hazard B.
3. Road greater than 2 miles downstream – PROBABLE Hazard A.

NEM Section 520.22 - Design criteria.

- (a) Class (a) earth dams with a product of storage times the effective height of the dam of less than 3,000 and with an effective height of the dam of 35 feet or less are to meet or exceed the requirements of Practice Standard 378, Pond (NHCP).***
- (b) Class (a) earth dams whose product of storage times the effective height of the dam is 3,000 or more; those more than 35 feet in effective height; and all Class (b) and (c) dams are to meet or exceed the requirements of Technical Release No. 60.***