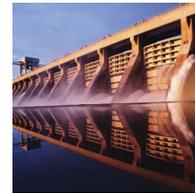




DAM FAILURE

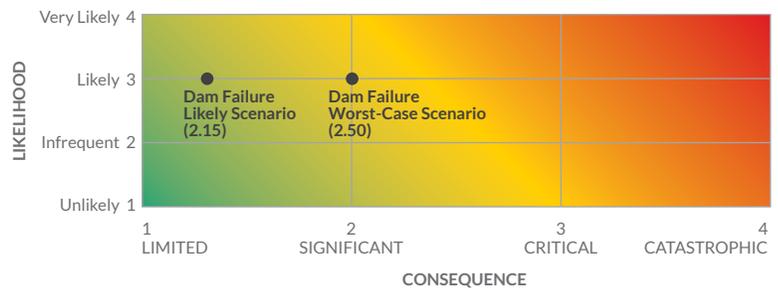


A Dam Failure hazard occurs when part or all of a dam’s water-retaining barrier becomes damaged causing the uncontrolled release of water downstream. A Dam Failure can be the result of a design or construction error, insufficient maintenance, human error, or internal erosion.

HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

There have been three confirmed Dam Failure hazard events in Howard County during the reviewed time period (1999-2014). All have been relatively minor incidents. In 2006, a low-hazard earthen dam retaining a stormwater management pond in Columbia experienced a barrel pipe collapse. The total cost to replace the pipe outlet and repair the damage was \$208,000.

RISK MATRIX



WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

There is an expected **11-30% Annual Likelihood** of a Dam Failure hazard in Howard County. In the most likely Dam Failure hazard scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Limited**. In the worst-case scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant**.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Howard County has over 2,000 small earthen dams on ponds, streams, and minor bodies of water.
- Of the recognized dams in Howard County, only seven are rated as Significant Hazard or High Hazard dams.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment readyhoco.com/hazards
- Maryland Dept. of the Environment mde.maryland.gov/damsafety
- Federal Emergency Management Agency fema.gov/dam-safety

LOCAL RISK OVERVIEW		
Future Likelihood	Likely 11-30% chance of annual occurrence	
Impact	MOST-LIKELY	WORST-CASE
	Limited	Limited-Significant
Risk Score	2.15	2.50
Risk Ranking (High to Low)	Ranked #10 of 16 man-made hazards.	

DAM FAILURE IMPACT

Where no Worst-Case bar is visible, Worst-Case impact is equivalent to Likely Impact

