

Table 3.1 - USACE Levee Safety Action Classification Table* 29 December 2011		
* At any time, a levee system from any action class can become an emergency requiring activation of the emergency action plan		
Levee Safety Action Class	Characteristics of this class	Actions for levee systems in this class <i>Additional actions apply for 1) USACE Operated, and Maintained Levee Systems; and 2) Other Levee Systems in USACE Program</i>
I Urgent and Compelling (Unsafe)	Probability of inundation due to breach prior to overtopping, overtopping with subsequent breach, and system component failure in combination with loss of life, economic, or environmental consequences results in extremely high risk.	Immediately perform levee system inspection; communicate risk findings to sponsor, state, Federal, Tribe, local officials, and public; stress improved floodplain management to include: immediate verification that warning, evacuation and emergency action plans are viable; flood inundation maps are current; there is an active community hazard awareness program; recommend purchase of flood insurance; and vigilant levee monitoring program is in place. 1) Take urgent action to reduce the likelihood of a breach prior to overtopping and mitigate overtopping and breach consequences through implementation of interim risk reduction measures. Support portfolio priorities for studies and risk reduction actions. 2) Advise responsible entity to take urgent action to implement interim risk reduction measures. Support portfolio priorities for studies and risk reduction actions.
II Urgent (Unsafe or Potentially Unsafe)	Probability of inundation due to breach prior to overtopping, overtopping with subsequent breach, and system component failure in combination with loss of life, economic, or environmental consequences results in very high risk.	Perform levee system inspection; communicate risk findings to sponsor, state, Federal, Tribe, local officials, and public; stress improved floodplain management to include: verification that warning, evacuation and emergency action plan are viable; flood inundation maps are current; there is an active community hazard awareness program; recommend purchase of flood insurance; and vigilant levee monitoring program is in place. 1) Take immediate action to implement interim risk reduction measures. Support portfolio priorities for studies and risk reduction actions. 2) Advise responsible entity to take immediate action implement interim risk reduction measures. Support portfolio priorities for studies and risk reduction actions.
III High Priority (Potentially Unsafe)	Probability of inundation due to breach prior to overtopping, overtopping with subsequent breach, and system component failure in combination with loss of life, economic, or environmental consequences results in moderate to high risk.	Verify inspection is current; communicate risk findings to sponsor, state, Federal, Tribe, local officials, and public; stress improved floodplain management to include: verify that warning, evacuation, and emergency action plan are viable; flood inundation maps are current; there is an active community hazard awareness program; and routine levee monitoring program is in place; recommend purchase of flood insurance; develop and execute levee monitoring program. 1) Implement interim risk reduction measures; schedule development of risk reduction studies. Support portfolio priorities for studies and risk reduction actions. 2) Advise responsible entity on development of interim risk reduction and risk remediation plans. Support portfolio priorities for studies and risk reduction actions.
IV Priority (Marginally Safe)	Probability of inundation due to breach prior to overtopping, overtopping with subsequent breach, and system component failure in combination with loss of life, economic, or environmental consequences results in low to moderate risk and the levee system does not meet all essential USACE guidelines.	Continue routine levee safety activities, stress improved floodplain management to include: verify that warning, evacuation, and emergency action plan are viable; flood inundation maps are current; there is an active community hazard awareness program; recommend purchase of flood insurance; develop and execute levee monitoring program. 1) Support portfolio priorities. 2) Support portfolio priorities.
V Normal (Adequately Safe)	There is a very low probability of inundation due to breach prior to overtopping, overtopping with subsequent breach, and system component failure. Levee system is considered adequately safe in that it meets essential USACE guidelines and the incremental risk is considered tolerable.	Continue routine levee safety activities, operation and maintenance, normal inspections, stress improved floodplain management to include: annually ensure that warning, evacuation and emergency action plan are functionally tested; recommend purchase of flood insurance; maintain levee monitoring program.