Learn about levees





Levees are designed to block water from going where you don't want it to go. No levee is flood proof. During a flood, a levee may threaten to breach or fail creating a risk to those who live behind the levee.

If a levee is threatening to fail, you may see any of the following:

Overtopping is where floodwater rises higher than the levee and flows over the top	
Water close to the top of the levee, where waves from floodwater are at risk of overtopping the levee	
Seepage of floodwater through the levee to the dry side	
Seepage of floodwater from the foundation of the levee	
Seepage of floodwater around a pipe through the side of the bank	

A levee may remain stable with these faults and just continue slowly leaking. Or, a fault can weaken the levee and result in a sudden or part levee failure. Water can flow very quickly when a levee fails, placing people and property at risk requiring evacuation of some areas.

Please don't drive, walk or play on levees. Look after our levees, so our levees can look after you.