

SAFETY FIRST

To minimize the risk of accidents:

- Understand the dangers near dams
- Stay away from hazardous areas
- Obey all warning devices such as signs, lights and sirens

TYPICAL WARNINGS TO OBEY OR OBSERVE

Signs or announcements with warning or messages about hazards

- Horns or sirens announce changes in water passing through the power house or through a spill area
- Changes in the sound of water or sudden changes in the current indicate changing conditions
- The level of water on rocks, snags or structures also indicates changing conditions



Trumpeter Swan

HELP YOURSELF

When boating near a dam

- Wear an approved personal flotation device
- Stay a safe distance away from the dam and do not cross protective barrier buoy lines.
- Keep the boat's motor running so you can quickly maneuver or leave
- Stay away from spill areas, where unpredictable water conditions make boat control difficult or impossible

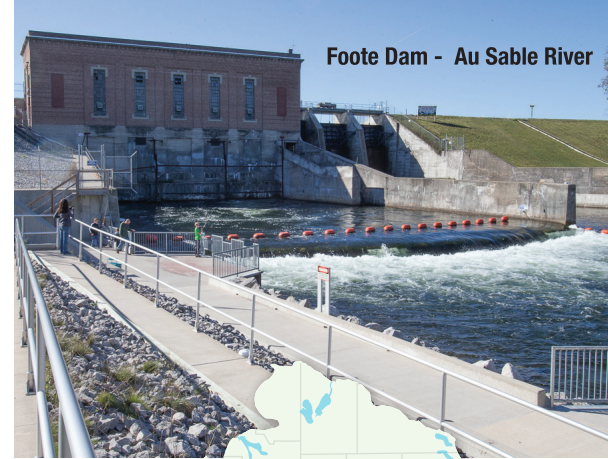
Do not anchor or tie your boat in any way that could let it be swamped or capsized if water currents or levels change rapidly.

- Be alert for unseen currents such as undertows, eddies and whirlpools, which can pull a boat into a dangerous situation

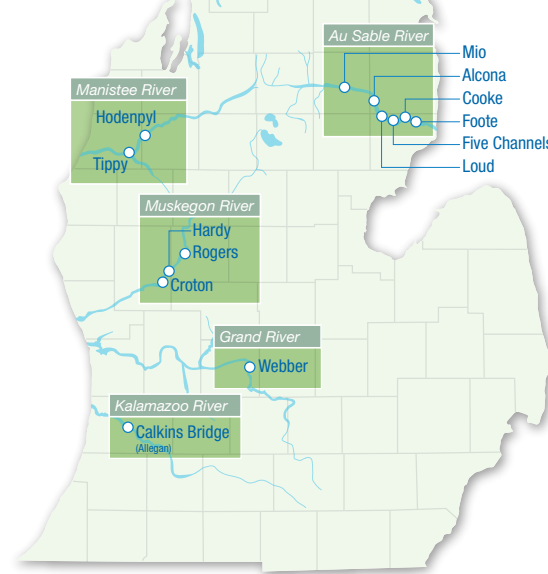
When walking or fishing on land near a dam

- Wear an approved personal flotation device
- Do not step past "No Trespassing" signs or warning cables
- Do not cross, damage or remove fences
- Always maintain a safe distance from high-voltage wires and apparatus
- Be aware that a fall into cold water could cause hypothermia, shock or loss of consciousness
- Know how to safely leave an area if conditions change or a siren sounds
- Never fish alone near a dam

If you have an emergency or see a situation that poses a danger to the public, please call the local sheriff's department.



Foote Dam - Au Sable River



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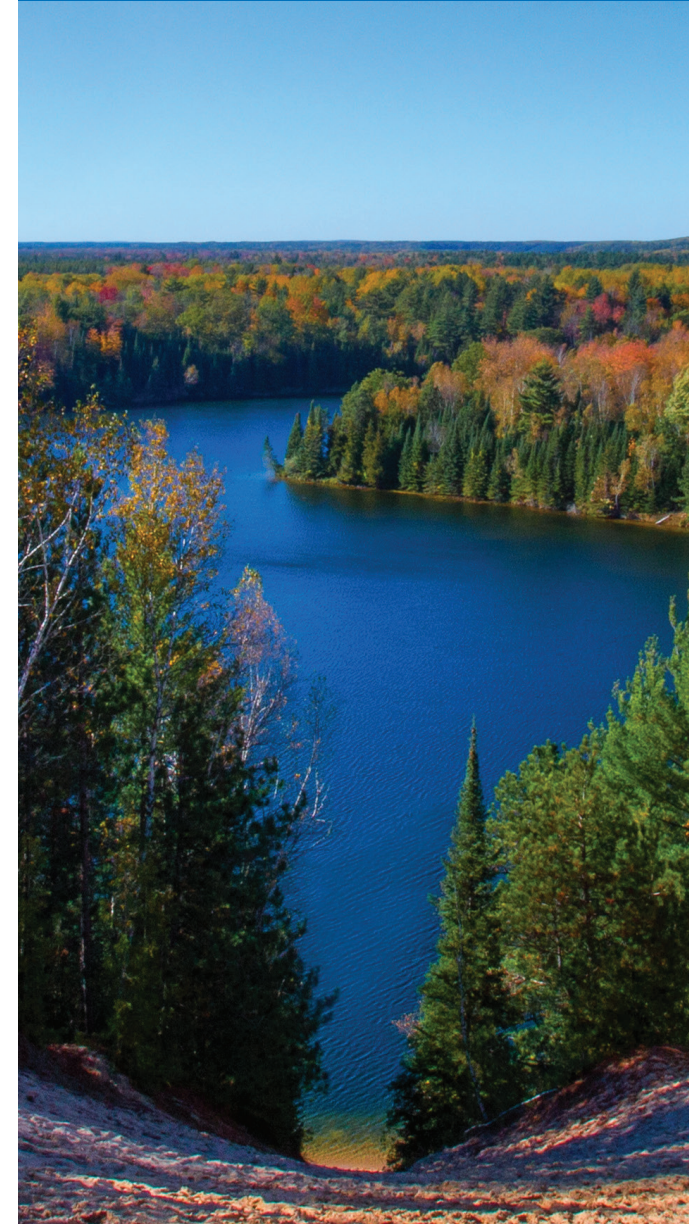
One Energy Plaza
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HYDRO SAFETY

For Visitors, Boaters and Anglers



WARNING SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Hydro operations employees activate sirens before making changes in water flow through the plants or spill gates. During off-hours when a hydroelectric plant is not staffed, automated spill gate controls activate sirens before releasing water through spill areas. A siren indicates that river flows below a dam are about to change significantly. When a siren sounds, anyone on or in the river should move to higher ground immediately. Naturally occurring or unexpected situations also can impact the water flow down river from a dam. These situations may occur without notice. As a result, anyone enjoying recreation near a dam should constantly be on the alert for changing conditions and developing hazards.

DANGER OFTEN HIDDEN

When water is passing through a Consumers Energy hydroelectric plant to generate electricity, the water is discharged from the plant through large tubes located below the surface of the river. Therefore, changes in the water's currents may not be readily visible. That means the water just down river from the dam is turbulent, with rising and falling currents. The currents usually create an undertow, strong recirculating currents, near the dam. Although not easy to see, those currents can easily trap a person OR boat, with the potential for tragedy.

Water passing through a plant's power house turns turbines to spin generators to make electricity. Excess water in times of very high river flow may be released through spill gates beside or under the plant. High river flow often occurs during spring snow melt and runoff, or during heavy seasonal rains.

Water being released through spill gates beside a power house is easily observed from down river. Water released through spill structures under a power house may not be as obvious. Both types of spill greatly increase the amount of water below the dam, creating strong currents and potentially dangerous conditions for boaters or anglers on foot.

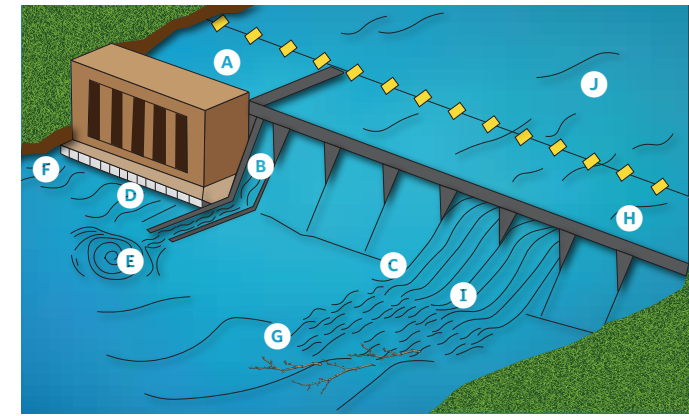
No one should be immediately above or down river from a hydroelectric generating plant when water is being passed through

the spill areas. Always maintain a safe distance from a dam.

Water in the reservoir immediately up river from a dam appears to be a placid lake. Beneath the surface, however, stronger currents are created by the flow of water into the power house and spill areas.

The currents are just as hazardous in winter, when a reservoir may or may not be covered with ice. Ice on a reservoir near a hydroelectric facility is not reliable and should be avoided by snowmobilers, anglers and others enjoying recreation. Ice-covered water down river from a hydroelectric facility can be just as dangerous and should never be considered a safe place to walk.

Warning signs, cables and buoys mark hazardous areas and should be strictly obeyed.



HAZARDOUS AREAS NEAR DAMS

- A** Hazardous areas marked by buoy lines
- B** Sudden water discharge from dam spill gates
- C** Strong, unpredictable currents above and below dam
- D** Sudden changes in turbulent discharges from automatically operated power house generators and spill gates
- E** Deceiving reverse currents or undertows below spill gates
- F** Slippery surfaces on dam structures and shoreline
- G** Submerged hazards above and below dam
- H** Open spill gates may not be visible from above the dam
- I** Debris passing over or through the dam
- J** Ice that forms near a dam is often thin and unsafe



Tippy Dam - Manistee River