

Bureau of Reclamation Participates with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Martis Creek Dam Exercise

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Each year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conducts an exercise at the Martis Creek Dam. Reclamation also participates with the USACE to test our procedures and ensure our coordination to provide advance notice to the downstream stakeholders and attempt to mitigate damage in the event of an emergency.

The Martis Creek Dam empties into the Truckee River as do several Mid-Pacific Region dams (Boca, Prosser, Stampede, and Lake Tahoe) on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada. The Truckee River eventually passes through the Reno/Sparks area, ending in Pyramid Lake.

The exercise held in Truckee on July 30, 2014, was slightly different from the exercise MP normally conducts on our dams, but it was

comparable. The participants included California and Nevada Emergency Management agencies (California Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES), and Nevada Department of Emergency Management); local first responders, which included Nevada Highway Patrol, Truckee Police, and the Reno Emergency Operations Center; USACE (who sponsored the event); Reclamation; California Department of Water Resources; and Nevada Department of Water Resources.

The MP Region Emergency Management, Interior Regional Emergency Coordination Council (I-RECC) member provides the Department of the Interior bureaus and offices a mechanism to communicate and maintain liaison coordination between I-RECC members and Regional Interagency Steering Committees (RISCs). This is an example of coordination and participation with other federal agencies with common goals that the MP Emergency Management group maintains.

Emergency Management Specialist André Leamons is the MP Regional Emergency Coordination Council member who coordinates and participates in emergency management exercises. Other exercises that MP Emergency Management has participated in recently include the ARkStorm exercise held in Reno, Nevada, with the Tahoe Research Consortium, CAL OES, Nevada Department of Emergency Management, the cities of Truckee, Reno, Sparks, and tribes.

ARkStorm is an acronym for Atmospheric River 1000 Storm, like the one that impacted California in 1862-1862. The 1800s storm, which rained for nearly 40 days from December to January, amounted to ten feet of rainfall and filled the interior of California with a lake 300 miles long and 60 miles wide. This was the storm that forced the first Governor of California to take a boat to his inauguration in Sacramento and created the eventual movement of the State Capitol to San Francisco until the waters

receded. This was an unusual event without a doubt, but it is one of the concerns that we must consider as we look at risk and threats to our facilities.

I-RECC objectives include: participation planning, preparedness, and response activities; enhance mutual support among Department bureaus and offices, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), other federal agencies, states, tribes and local governments for emergency activities; facilitate participation of bureaus and offices in FEMA regional preparedness activities including RISC meetings and readiness exercises; and provide a mechanism to coordinate the use of Department resources at the regional level during incidents. I-RECC also leverages the skills, capabilities and geographic presence of members and their parent organizations to enhance Department readiness within the region.



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