



NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Dam Safety Awareness Week

LA CROSSE, WI— Spring has finally arrived and with the warmer temperatures come higher river flows on area rivers due to melting snow and spring rain. These flows are a stark reminder of how powerful the forces of Nature can be and how important it is to stay safe when boating, canoeing, fishing or seeking other recreation opportunities on area rivers.

Dairyland Power Cooperative joins with the Midwest Hydro Users Group (HUG) in observing Dam Safety Awareness Week (April 7-12) to promote public safety awareness near dams and prevent accidents throughout the boating season.

The purpose of Dam Safety Awareness Week is to heighten the safety awareness of recreational and fishing enthusiasts as they return to the waterways. Many of the accidents that occur near dams could be prevented by using common sense, practicing safety, staying clear of dams and understanding the dangers to be found near them.

HUG, DNR personnel and local officials offer these tips to stay safe on rivers and near dams:

- Obey all warning signs, barriers and flashing lights, horns and sirens.
- Wear a personal floatation device (PFD), a life jacket.
- Leave your boat motor running to provide maneuvering power.
- Stay clear of spillways; changing currents and “boiling” waves can make boat control difficult near dams.
- Be aware of reverse currents that occur below dams that can pull a boat back toward the dam and capsize it.
- Never anchor boats below a dam because water levels can change rapidly.
- Especially in spring, cold water can cause hypothermia that could result in death from drowning.

Headquartered in La Crosse, Wis., Dairyland provides wholesale electricity to 25 member distribution cooperatives and 17 municipal utilities. A Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Dairyland’s service area encompasses 62 counties in four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois). Dairyland’s generation resources include coal, natural gas, hydro, wind, biomass, landfill gas and animal waste. Please visit www.dairynet.com for more information. Dairyland is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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