



Since there are no industry standards for the physical security of levees, the level of physical security for levees is up to the discretion of individual levee owners and operators. When choosing security measures, levee owners and operators should consider several factors:

- A **prior history of thefts, vandalism, or other security-related problems** either directed against the levee itself or the surrounding area.
- **Threats** directed against the levee or staff who operate it.
- The **potential consequences of levee failure** or the malfunctioning of critical control devices that may be damaged through theft or other deliberate acts.
- The need to mitigate **liability issues** resulting from potential deliberate acts.
- **Visibility and public access** to the levee.
- Whether **temporary protective measures**, such as additional access restrictions or increased patrols, are needed at critical locations during periods of greatest vulnerability and consequences (e.g., high water conditions).

The best source for determining the appropriate level of security is the owner/operator's knowledge of the levee's history and a common sense assessment of what measures are appropriate, if any. Seek input from local law enforcement. Other local levee owners and operators may also have suggestions for security measures that they have used.

## Types of Security Measures

The types of security measures that could be employed include:

- Installing fencing, gates, or other barriers to restrict access to the levee or support facilities.
- Limiting access to critical facilities or features to authorized persons through unique or restricted keying systems, remote "smart locks," or access card systems.
- Instructing maintenance staff to be alert for cuts in fencing, broken locks, or other irregularities.
- Posting signs in non-public areas to warn individuals that they are trespassing.
  - Local law enforcement can advise as to the language and posting requirements.
- Marking tools and maintaining an accurate inventory of generators, power tools, and other valuable equipment, which could aid in their recovery if stolen.
- Ensuring that metal products, such as copper or aluminum, are secured at night and marked to help identify them if stolen
  - Marking or branding wire reels with a unique color spray paint may help.
- Implementing access control measures to identify and process all personnel, visitors, vehicles, vendors, and contractors.
  - For example, all personnel display photo IDs, uniforms, marked vehicles, visitor passes, and/or contractor IDs while in critical buildings or areas.

- Installing door alarms or other systems to monitor entry into critical buildings or areas.
- Implementing recorded closed-circuit television systems (CCTV) that provide surveillance of a protected facility.
- Integrating alarm, CCTV, and other security systems that report to a staffed levee facility or a contract alarm station for incident assessment and that dispatch the appropriate company or law enforcement personnel as needed.
- Placing barriers to delay or stop vehicles, particularly in vital areas where only authorized vehicles should be allowed.
- Instructing levee personnel to be vigilant of suspicious aircraft or Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) flyovers.
- Lighting critical areas to deter trespassing and to facilitate observation at night.
  - An alternative is to have motion-detection lighting in place.
- Establishing a contract with a reputable security vendor who can provide either random patrols or more stringent onsite security when circumstances require such actions.
- Creating a security awareness program to advise neighbors and employees of the types of problems happening and how to report suspicious activities.
  - Local law enforcement should be able to assist.
- Asking a local law enforcement to assess the security of the levee and its facilities, particularly in response to local crime patterns.

This list is not intended to be all-inclusive, but offers security measures that could provide an adequate level of security for levees.

## Contact Information

For questions or more information, please contact [dams@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:dams@hq.dhs.gov).



Levees along a riverbank (Source: DHS)