

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Jill Reed
Business Development & Marketing Manager
RIZZO Associates, Inc.
Penn Center East
500 Penn Center Boulevard, Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
(412) 825-2053
jill.reed@rizzoassoc.com

MAY 31: NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

Observed each year on May 31, National Dam Safety Awareness Day commemorates the tragic failure of the South Fork Dam in Johnstown, Pennsylvania in 1889, which took more than 2,200 lives and was the worst dam failure in the history of the United States. Founded and sponsored by FEMA, National Dam Safety Awareness Day seeks to encourage and promote individual and community responsibility and best practices for dam safety, as well as steps that can be taken to prevent future catastrophic dam failures.



Associated Press

RIZZO encourages and promotes individual and community responsibility and best practices for dam safety, and strives to highlight the steps people can take to prevent future catastrophic dam failures or lessen the impact of a potential failure. Dams are a vital part of the American infrastructure and provide economic, environmental, and social benefits. Anyone who has enjoyed an artificial lake knows some of these social benefits firsthand. The benefits of dams, however, can be countered by the risks they sometimes present. The failure of even a small dam is capable of causing significant property and environmental damage, as well as the loss of life.

FEMA offers the following ideas to encourage communities, states, and private sector dam owners across the nation to help promote dam safety:

- Contact your local State Dam Safety Program
- Organize an evacuation drill
- Work with the school system to set-up a field trip to a local dam
- Update your emergency action plan
- Start an outreach campaign to raise dam safety awareness
- Host a Dam Safety Awareness Day community event
- Post information on your website