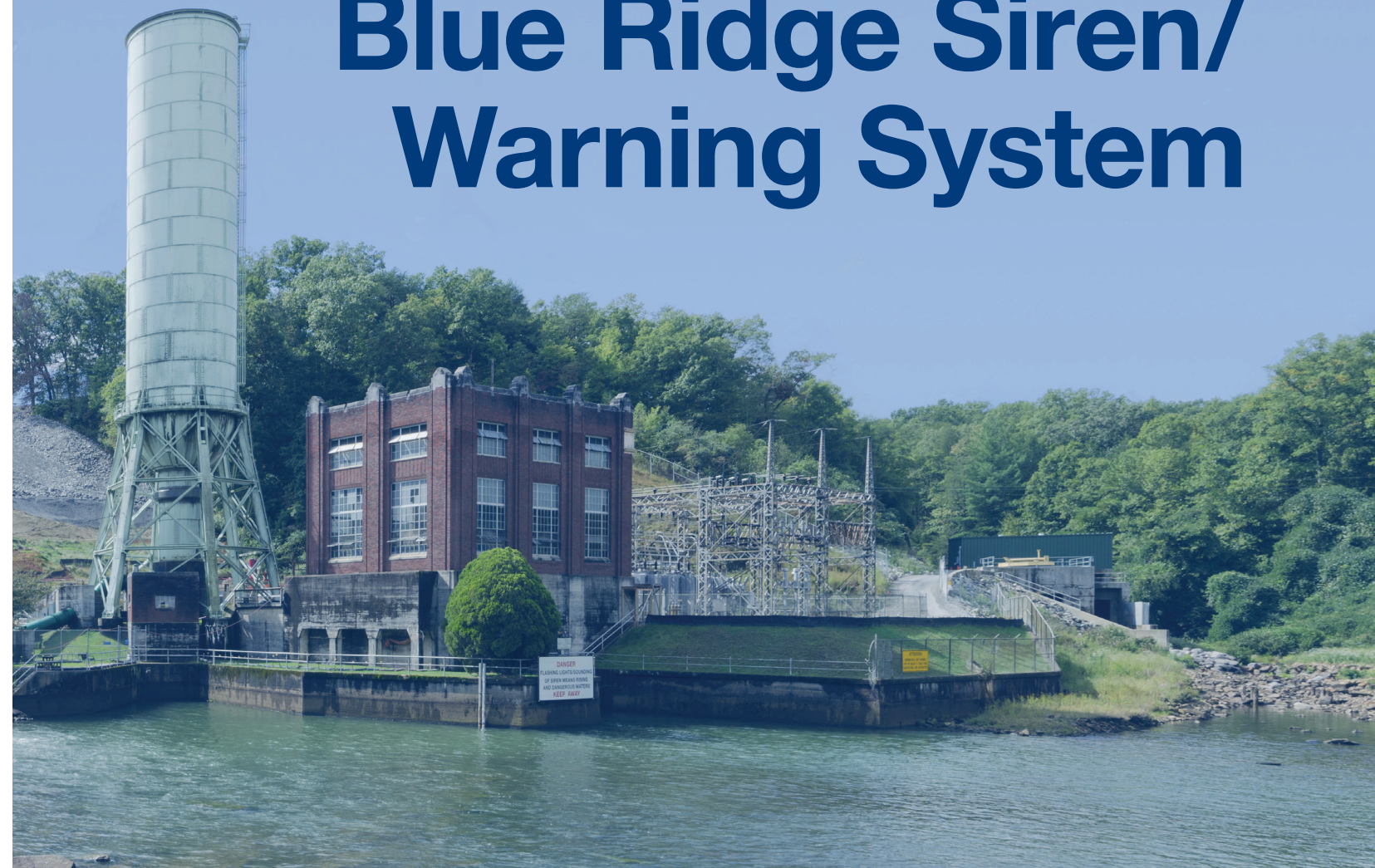


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Tennessee Valley Authority  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402



# Blue Ridge Siren/ Warning System



## Dear Blue Ridge Dam Neighbor:

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and Fannin County Emergency Management officials have teamed up to enhance emergency preparedness for everyone living, working, and enjoying recreation downstream from Blue Ridge Dam.

Although the possibility of a dam failure or other compromise to the dam is very remote, we want to help ensure that you will be both prepared for and receive timely warnings in case of such an event. A siren/warning system has been installed to quickly alert those who are located close to or on the river downstream of the dam. The system includes three warning sirens located in the area below the dam and one in McCaysville. The system will work together with Fannin County's emergency warning system, which provides automated phone calls, text messages and emails to the public.

If you have not done so, please sign up for Fannin County Emergency Alerts at:  
<https://www.fannincountyga.com/emergency-management-agency/>



What do I need to know?

Where is Blue Ridge Dam?

Blue Ridge Dam is located on the Toccoa River in Fannin County, Georgia, near the Mineral Bluff community, about two miles northeast of the city of Blue Ridge. It is an earthen dam completed in 1930. Over the years TVA has made numerous improvements to the dam, and continues to monitor, maintain and improve the dam as needed.

Why do we need a siren/warning system?

The safety of the public is TVA’s top priority. The siren/warning system is being installed to notify downstream residents and visitors in the unlikely event of a dam failure.

What could cause a dam failure?

- There are three potential scenarios that could lead to the highly unlikely event of a dam failure:
- A large magnitude earthquake
  - A major flood
  - Internal erosion of the dam

If the dam suddenly fails, flood waters could reach downstream populations very quickly.

How can I be prepared?

Determine if you are located in the area that could be flooded. Study the map to see if your home, workplace or other visited locations are within the flood zone. Determine your best evacuation routes and identify gathering places in case you and family members ever need to evacuate.

If I hear the sirens, experience a severe earthquake\*, or see rapidly rising water on the river, what should I do?

Take action immediately. Get off and away from the river to high ground outside of the flood zone. If you cannot evacuate by vehicle, walk or climb to the nearest location well above the river. Evacuate immediately and do not take time saving personal possessions.

\*During a severe earthquake you may experience difficulty with standing or walking, observe structural damage to buildings, and encounter cracked roadways and collapsed bridges.

Where are the sirens located?

Sirens are located in Tammen Park, Mineral Bluff, on Toccoa River Forest Road, and in McCaysville. They are marked on the map on the other side of this page.

Will the siren/warning system be tested?

Yes, it will be tested annually. Everyone in or near the siren coverage area will be notified prior to the test.

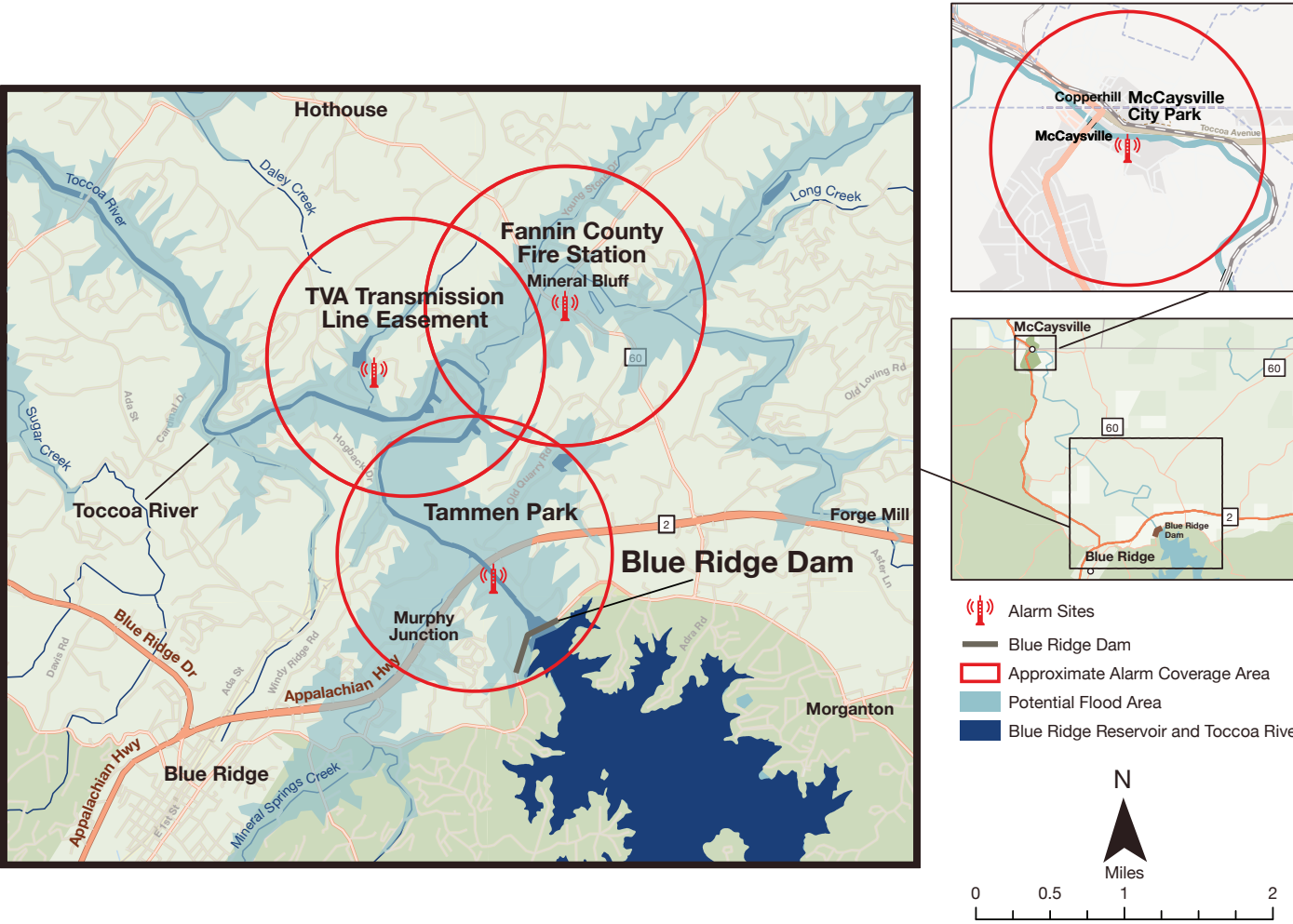
What if my location is within the flood zone but outside of the siren coverage area?

You will be notified by Fannin County’s emergency warning system, which uses automated phone calls, text messages and emails for emergency warning notifications.

Prepare for All Disasters Now:

Everyone can take steps to be better prepared for disasters:

- Prepare a family/household disaster plan. (<https://www.ready.gov/plan>)
- Have a plan to communicate with others. (<https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2021-04/family-emergency-communication-plan.pdf>)
- Prepare an emergency supply kit. (<https://www.ready.gov/kit>)
- Know how you will be warned in an emergency.



Preparing for a flood from a dam failure is the same as for any major flood:

- Be situationally aware. If you see rising water, seek high ground. Do not try to escape the flood by moving downstream.
- Plan an evacuation route. If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Never drive around barricades.
- Do not walk, swim, or drive across flooded roadways. Six inches of fast-moving water may be enough to knock you off your feet. As little as 12 inches of moving water may lift a small vehicle. Flood water depth is hard to determine and may contain hidden, dangerous debris.
- If trapped in a building, go to the highest level of the building. Avoid basements and lower floors, but do not climb into a closed attic, as you may become trapped there if floodwater rises. Go on to the roof only if necessary. Signal for help.
- After a flood, avoid wading in floodwater, which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Be aware of the risk of electrocution from electrical lines in the water.

REGISTER FOR ALERTS AT:

**FEMA's Preparedness Information:** <https://www.ready.gov/be-informed>  
**Blue Ridge Dam Emergencies:** <https://www.fannincountyga.com/emergency-management-agency/>  
**TVA's website and social media channels will provide up-to-date information about this project at:** <https://www.tva.com/energy/our-power-system/hydroelectric/blue-ridge>

**f** [facebook.com/TVA](https://facebook.com/TVA) | **t** [@TVAnews](https://twitter.com/TVAnews) | **@** [@TVA](https://instagram.com/TVAnews) | **in** [linkedin.com/company/tva](https://linkedin.com/company/tva)

Keep this sheet handy!