

WHAT TO DO IF A DAM FAILS

OFFICIAL UPDATES LU-Alert · RTL, 100.7 · 112

DO THIS NOW

- 1** Leave at once when the authorities tell you to, by the route they give. Take your grab bag, medicines, documents and phone, and nothing else.
- 2** Get to high ground, well above the valley floor and away from the river. Go on foot if the roads are blocked. Do not wait to see the water.
- 3** Never drive or walk through moving water. **15 cm** of it can knock you over, and **30 cm** can carry a car away.
- 4** If the water arrives before you can leave, go to the highest floor and make yourself visible at a window. Never go into the cellar, an underground car park or an underpass.
- 5** Follow LU-Alert messages and the radio on **RTL, 100.7**. A siren warning means get to safety and follow the official channels. See Siren is sounding.
- 6** Call **112** if someone is in danger. Otherwise keep the lines free: send texts, not calls.
- 7** Help a neighbour who cannot leave alone, if it does not hold you up.

BEFORE

KNOW YOUR RISK

- If you live, work or camp below a dam such as the Upper Sûre dam, ask your commune whether a failure would reach your street.
- The official flood maps on inondations.lu and the geoportail show river floods. A dam failure can reach further and arrive faster, so do not rely on them alone.

- Plan a route on foot to high ground from your home, your work and the children's school. Note it, and any dam nearby, in your **household plan**.

HOW WARNINGS REACH YOU

- In Luxembourg, warnings come through LU-Alert (phone alerts, text messages and the app), the sirens, the radio and infocrise. Check **Alerts and sirens**.
- France uses a special horn near some of its dams. That is a French signal: the

Luxembourg sources we checked describe no special dam signal here. Do not wait for a horn.

BE READY TO LEAVE FAST

- Keep a grab bag by the door, with water, medicines, copies of documents in a waterproof pouch, a power bank and cash. See the **grab bag checklist**.
- Agree on a meeting point on high ground, and who collects the children.

AFTER

- Go back only when the authorities say it is safe. The ground, roads and bridges may have been undermined, and the water can rise again.
- Do not switch on the power in a room that was under water until an electrician has checked it.
- Treat tap water as unsafe until the supplier says otherwise. See **No water, or water unsafe**.
- For cleaning up, insurance and mould, follow **Flooding**.
- If you still feel shaken afterwards, talk to someone you trust. See **Coping with a crisis**.

IF YOU ARE...

LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN

- If they are at school, follow the school's messages. Schools have their own safety plans and will move pupils on official orders.
- Practise the walk to high ground with them, so they know the way.

OLDER, ILL, OR LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

- Agree now with a neighbour or the commune who helps you leave, and ask for that help as soon as a warning comes in.

WITH PETS

- Take them with you, with food and water. Never leave an animal tied up or shut in.

BY THE RIVER OR THE LAKE

- If you are walking, camping or on the water below a dam, get away from the banks and climb at once when a warning comes or the water changes fast.

IN A FLAT ABOVE THE THIRD FLOOR

- You may stay dry but be cut off for some time. Leave if you are told to. If you stay, expect the power, water and lift to fail.

EASY-READ SUMMARY

 Leave when the authorities tell you to.

 Go to high ground on foot.

 Do not walk or drive through water.

 Follow the radio and LU-Alert.

 Call for help if someone is in danger.

Last reviewed: 25/10/2026 Sources for this page