

To the inhabitants of Saanen

For the area surrounding weirs, i.e. the region which within 2 hours of a failure of a dam or of a reservoir overflowing has to expect some flooding, the leaflet "What to do in case of a water alarm for Lake Sanetsch and Lake Arnen" has been revised in cooperation with the canton.

Since the time for taking protective measures (e.g. evacuation) is limited, the affected parts of local authorities must know exactly what to do in case of an incident. This document can also be viewed on the local authority's website or printed out. The leaflet should be kept for a long time in a highly visible place (e.g. on the information board of multi-family dwellings, front door, refrigerator or pinboard). If you move, please ensure that the leaflet is accessible to the new occupants of the building.

Explanations about the leaflet:

The leaflet provides information on which areas could be affected in the event of an incident. The scenario **with the greatest possible impact** was chosen (total failure of the Sanetsch and Lake Arnen dams), meaning that the entire floodplain area would not necessarily be affected in every case (highlighted in colour on the map). The **specified times** until the arrival of the water are also based on the worst-case scenario, i.e. if the lake overflows or the dam fails. If there is any sign of an incident, the local population is made aware of the possible danger by means of the general alarm, unless time has run out (listen to the radio). At the latest if failure of the dam cannot be ruled out in the foreseeable future or an unexpected event occurs without warning (landslide), the "water alarm" is triggered.

This sign should be seen as a demand to leave the endangered area immediately!

The area from the local authority boundary with Gsteig to Moosfang (orange and yellow):

- a) As far as possible, escape in a direction which is at a right angle to the River Saane and look for sites which are at least 20-30 metres higher up.
- b) In a second phase, go to the "Chlösterli, Grundsagi or Moosfang" assembly point where more instructions on what to do will be given.
- c) In a third phase, the affected persons can gather at the "Untergstaad" emergency assembly point. *Should the destruction on the valley floor towards Gstaad be very extensive, some residents will have the possibility of evacuating via Eggli, Chalberhöni in the direction of Saanen.*

Rütti Gstaad area, etc. green, light blue and dark blue:

Persons who are in these areas can go directly to the emergency assembly points (Untergstaad, Rübeldorf or Saanen Church).

As a rule, there is a bit more time available for the evacuation process than that specified on the leaflet, because if at all possible the water alarm is not only triggered when the incident has escalated. Private individuals must evacuate themselves. Even staying on one of the upper floors of a building does not necessarily offer protection, because undercutting and collapsing buildings have to be expected and accessibility to the flood area for rescue teams is likely to be extremely difficult later on. So the water alarm is the ultimate signal to leave the area. The non-affected parts of local authorities (white) provide neighbourly assistance if the situation calls for it.

Dams are considered safe. Although a complete failure of a weir is extremely unlikely, it is nevertheless essential to think the unthinkable. At any rate, major earthquakes or large rockslides can in unfavourable circumstances have serious consequences. In the last 100 years, several dozen such events have occurred worldwide. It is advisable to take the preparatory measures seriously in spite of the low level of risk, without giving rise to exaggerated fears.

Should you have any questions about the leaflet, the local authority office would be happy to help you. Just call Tel. 033 748 92 93.

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