



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Dam Safety Awareness Week is April 28 to May 3**

LA CROSSE, WI— Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle has proclaimed the week of April 28 to May 3, Dam Safety Awareness Week. Dairyland Power Cooperative joins the Midwest Hydro Users Group (HUG) in promoting safety awareness at dams. HUG is an association of dam owners whose purpose is to promote safe, efficient and economical use of hydroelectric power.

Dam Safety Week is meant to heighten the safety awareness of recreational and fishing enthusiasts as they return to the waterways. Many of the accidents that occur near dams could be prevented by using common sense, practicing safety, staying clear of dams and understanding the dangers to be found near them.

If you're headed out to enjoy the waters on a river or near a dam, please heed these common-sense tips, compiled by HUG and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) personnel:

- Obey all warning signs and barriers, as well as flashing lights, horns and sirens.
- Always wear a life jacket.
- Never anchor your boat below a dam, as water levels can change rapidly.
- Leave your boat motor running to provide maneuvering power.
- Reverse currents occur below dams. Those currents can pull a boat back toward the dam into the spillway and capsize it.
- Especially in spring, cold water can cause hypothermia that could result in death from drowning.
- Stay clear of spillways. Changing currents and "boiling" waves can make boat control difficult near dams.
- Bring a cell phone and contact 911 in an emergency.

With headquarters in La Crosse, Wis., Dairyland provides wholesale electricity to 25 member distribution cooperatives and 19 municipal utilities. A Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Dairyland's service area encompasses 62 counties in four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois). Dairyland's generation resources include coal, natural gas, hydro, wind, landfill gas and animal waste. Dairyland's Flambeau Hydroelectric Station (Ladysmith, Wis.) can generate 24 MW of electricity. For more information, please visit [www.dairynet.com](http://www.dairynet.com).

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