LSAC

A key lesson learned from Hurricane Katrina is the importance of risk communication so that local officials, stakeholders, and the public have the best information available in order to make informed risk-based decisions. The **Levee Safety Action Classification (LSAC)** is one of the many tools we use to better inform our stakeholders and residents of the residual risk in their communities.

The LSAC is neither a levee rating or grade, it is a classification system designed to take into account the existing condition of the levee, the current and future maintenance of the levee and the consequences if a levee were to fail or be overwhelmed.

A levee that reduces risk for a dense population will receive a different classification from an equally constructed levee with a smaller population because the consequences associated with failure is greater.

Snapshot: Sacramento River, CA

The east and west bank levees are identically built, but have different risk classifications due to what is behind the levees.

National Levee Database

US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Vicksburg District

The National Levee Database is accessible to the public and provides information on individual levee systems such as risk characteristics, inspection summaries, and the local Federal Emergency National Flood Insurance Program.

Information is available for more than 2,490 miles of levees in the Vicksburg District.

The NLD can be found at:
levees.sec.usace.army.mil.

US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Vicksburg District

4155 East Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183
(601)631-5000
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Levee Safety Program

Levee Safety Action Classifications (LSAC)

Levee Safety Program

In 2006, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers created the **Levee Safety Program** to assess the integrity and viability of levees and to make sure that levee systems do not present unacceptable risks to the public, property, and the environment. The basic objectives of the Levee Safety Program are to:

- Develop balanced and informed assessments of levees within the program.
- Evaluate, prioritize and justify levee safety decisions.
- Make recommendations to improve public safety associated with levee systems.

The **National Levee Database** is a component of the Levee Safety Program which inventories all levees in the program and aims to continually improve inspection procedures. The **Levee Safety Action Classifications (LSACs)** will be placed in the Database. (Additional information about the National Levee Database can be found on the back of this brochure.)

- **National Levee Database:** Provides a comprehensive view of levee systems across the country.
- **Levee Safety Action Classification:** A risk communication tool to identify and prioritize levee systems based on the risk associated with the system.

What is the probability of a system being used and against what type of event?

There are different types of events that a system can defend against:
- Riverine High Water
- Rainfall Events

How many times has a system been operated and how did it perform?

LSAC looks at not only how a system performed in the past, but also how it is expected to perform in the future.

What people, structures, and property are behind the system?

LSAC looks at what would happen to the people, structures and property behind the system in the worst case scenario.

"Plan for the worst but hope for the best."

Hazard + Performance + Consequences = Classifications
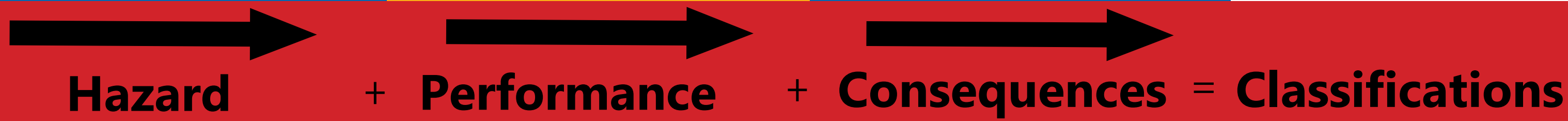
Levee Safety Action Classification (LSAC) looks at the following criteria to calculate risk for a levee system:

- Performance
- Hazard
- Consequences
-

Based on each of these factors, with the most emphasis placed on consequences, an LSAC is assigned to a system.

The Vicksburg District

Mississippi River and Tributaries levees and floodwalls:
1,330 miles

Sponsor operated and maintained levees and floodwalls:
582 Miles

Residual Risk

No levee system can eliminate all risk. Regardless of the LSAC, individuals should:

- Know the risks.
- Enroll in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Have a plan in place.
- Follow evacuation orders when they are given.

Levee Safety Action Classifications
Very High
High
Moderate
Low
Very Low
No Verdict