

## **Part 503 – Safety**

### **Subpart B – Public Safety at Structure Sites**

#### **503.10 General**

Many NRCS-assisted structures, by nature, may be hazardous to the public. Features designed for recreation or fish and wildlife enhancement invite the public. Children especially are attracted to structures that provide an opportunity to play in water. Reservoirs and structures such as open-top spillway risers, high- or steep-walled channels and chutes, plunge pools, and stilling basins are especially hazardous and require special attention to ensure public safety.

#### **503.11 Scope**

All NRCS-assisted designs and structures must include necessary safety measures, regardless of who is responsible for installation and maintenance of safety measures.

#### **503.12 Recommended Safety Measures**

All structures must be designed to avoid hazardous conditions where possible; safeguards must be provided to protect the public where hazards are unavoidable. Following are examples of specific safety measures that should be used where appropriate:

- (1) Post warning signs where they are clearly visible, visually appealing, and appropriately sized.
- (2) Paint “DANGER—STAY OFF” on risers and highwalls. Use only if no other method is appropriate.
- (3) Locate riser in the reservoir rather than in the embankment if climatic conditions permit.
- (4) Use a covered-top drop inlet.
- (5) Use a low-level inlet to keep the normal water level below the main inlet.
- (6) Do not install permanent ladders.
- (7) Use a trash rack that cannot be easily entered.
- (8) Use catwalks only where absolutely necessary and use guard rails or protective fences with a locked gate where catwalks are necessary.
- (9) Prevent access to deep stilling basins, drop structures, plunge pools, chutes, steep- or vertical-walled channels, etc., with a protective chain-link fence, provide escape routes, or both.
- (10) Flatten side slopes of pools on at least one side.
- (11) Install guardrails on the top of highwalls and steep cuts that cannot be protected with fences.

#### **503.13 Maintenance of Steep Slopes**

- A. Advise farmers, maintenance personnel, and others against operating equipment on steep slopes.
- B. Recommend use of proper safety devices on equipment (protective frames, crush-resistant cabs, and seat belts).
- C. Call attention to hazards in maintenance plans and agreements.
- D. Specify safe procedures in maintenance plans and agreements that clearly exclude operation of equipment on steep slopes.