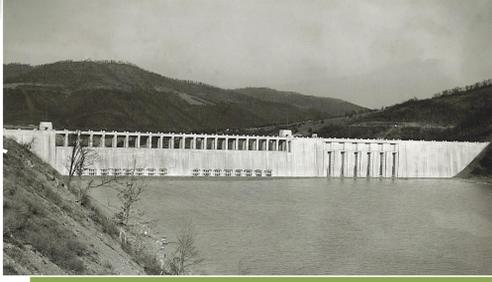




US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Huntington District
BUILDING STRONG®

Bluestone Dam

The Important Role of Local, State and National Leaders



The Bluestone Dam was built in the 1940s by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Hinton, West Virginia. The Corps operates the project to reduce the risk of flooding, and for recreation and fish and wildlife. The dam creates the nearly 11-mile-long Bluestone Lake in its watershed. The Corps Dam Safety Assurance Program is undertaking long- and short-term risk reduction measures to address deficiencies in original design to meet modern standards and reduce the risk to a tolerable level.

Bluestone Basin Covers a Large Area

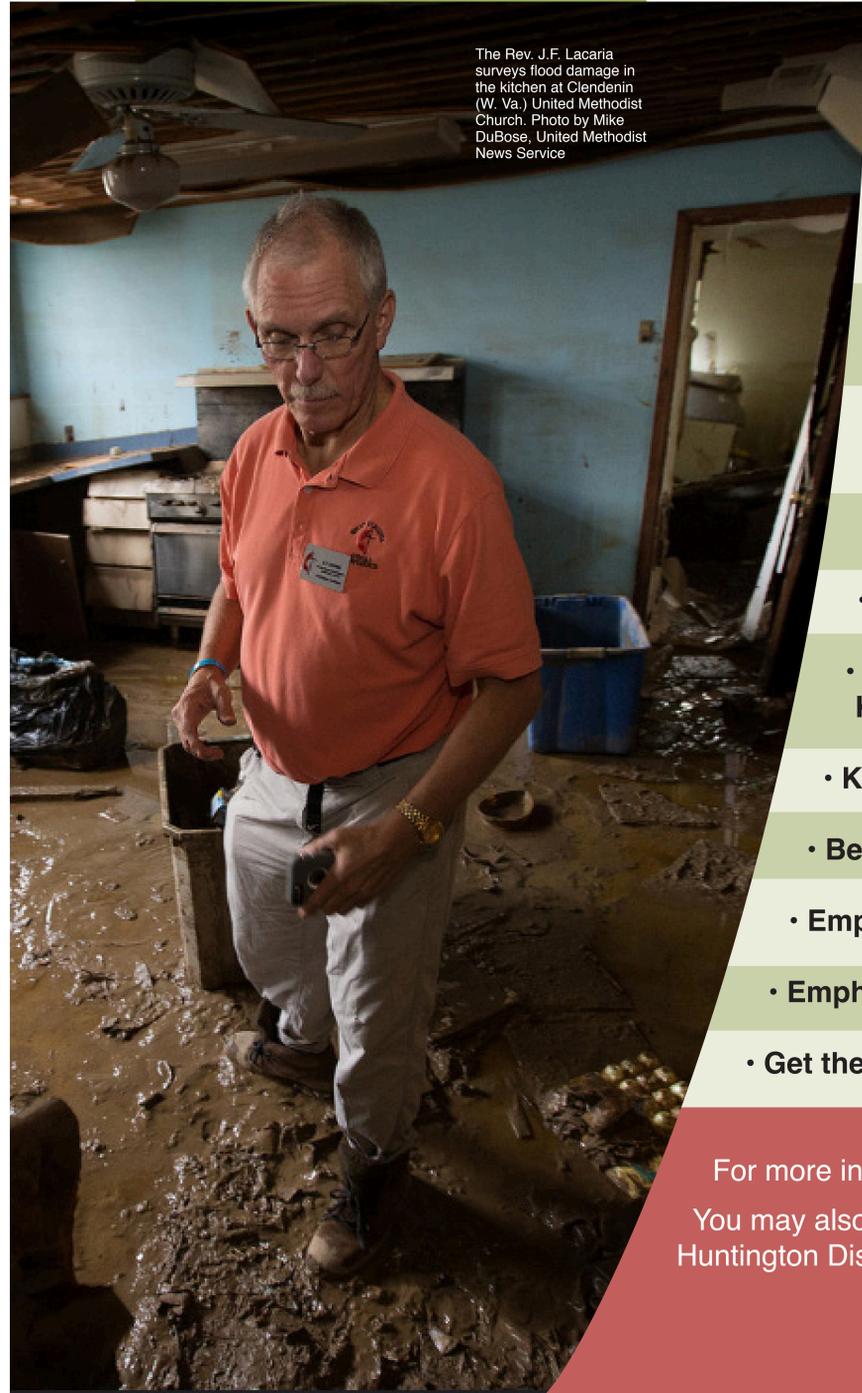
Its watershed covers 4,565 square miles, stretching south through Virginia and North Carolina, where the New River begins. The Corps operates Bluestone Lake as part of a system with Summersville and Sutton Lakes to help control flooding in the Kanawha River basin, including the state capital of Charleston, West Virginia. When heavy rains occur, surface water is stored in the lake to give streams and rivers below the dam a chance to recede. However, when a storm exceeds Bluestone's storage capacity, emergency releases must be made to protect the dam's integrity, even if it will contribute to flooding downstream.



Local, state and national leaders have a very important role in the safety of the residents of the Bluestone Dam basin. Some responsibilities include:

- Understanding that the Bluestone Dam can flood downstream without a breach when emergency releases are required to protect the integrity of the dam.
- Work with the community, and leadership at all levels, to develop a detailed plan for each neighborhood.
- Create and execute an effective plan of action for all leadership levels.
- Create and plan dam safety drills (twice a year).
- Be prepared to provide critical information to the people in the New and Kanawha River Basin.
- Know that if the dam's capacity is exceeded, the Corps will make large water releases.
- Be aware of post-relief flood measures – both care and recovery.
- Emphasize what leaders and residents need to know and do.
- Emphasize that residents should strongly consider purchasing flood insurance.
- Get the word out to “avoid all floodwaters.”

The Rev. J.F. Lacia surveys flood damage in the kitchen at Clendenin (W. Va.) United Methodist Church. Photo by Mike DuBose, United Methodist News Service



For more information, please visit www.FloodSmart.gov in addition to www.LivingNearDams.org. You may also visit the Corps of Engineers site at www.usace.army.mil and contact the USACE Huntington District Office at (304) 399-5353 or PublicAffairs@lrh01.usace.army.mil.