

The Implications of the 2007 Summer Storms for UK Reservoir Safety

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SYNOPSIS. This paper discusses the impact on reservoirs of the storms that affected north-east England and the Gloucestershire region in June and July 2007. The incident at Ulley Reservoir was well publicised and there were a large number of other dams that were overtopped and /or damaged by these storm events. The paper aims to:

- Evaluate the meteorological and statistical significance of the storm events experienced in the two regions;
- Summarise the impacts on reservoirs in both regions;
- Comment on the possible implications for reservoir safety operation, management and legislation; and
- Comment on how current research into extreme rainfall events should improve flood risk assessments for dam safety in the UK.