

# Health & Safety during exercises and / or during an event

*“Zero fatalities and wounded” Safety ambition of Rijkswaterstaat*

NR

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Describe the challenge, the situation and the context:  
(Where, Who, What, Why, How, When)

In a recent exercise international experts were invited to attend and to provide feedback. Valuable feedback was given to pay more attention to a broad range of safety aspects. An integrated approach is essential, in particular during a real flood event.

Several examples of identified safety issues were:

#1: one of the staff members parked their vehicle partly on the road and partly on the road's shoulder, therefore requiring other vehicles to deviate. This could have resulted in an accident due to the unsafe situation that resulted.

#2: In several occasions levee patrollers are overlooking the situation adjacent to a just collapsed embankment. They should be aware that the remaining embankment still may be unstable.

What did you learn and why is it important:

An integrated approach to safety is essential for those involved in inspecting a levee. This concerns safety in relation to traffic but also of those directly involved on site. Training is an important aspect. Flood defence experts must make levee patrollers aware of the various different failure mechanisms.

Cold phase:

Levee patroller and flood defence experts: attention is needed for safety in education, training and exercises. It is important to make someone responsible for safety matters during an exercise or during an actual event. Protocols can help, also to raise awareness.

Warm phase:

After considering attitude and behaviour, apply safety measures and where necessary fence of third parties. Devote attention to traffic and parking, as well as how one can ensure that all movements can take place safely at or near the location.

Recovery phase:

Devote explicit attention to safety. To be further elaborated.

## Event characteristics

Subject of lesson learned:	Health and safety aspects
Contact person:	Anco van den Heuvel
Mission or exercise name:	Not defined.
Relevant publication with hyperlink:	Education (in Dutch: VCA (VOL))

Cold phase

Warm phase

Recovery phase

