

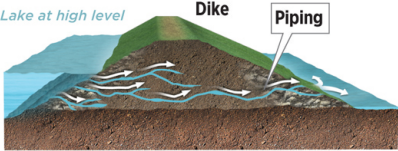
A vulnerable Lake Okeechobee

Florida's Lake Okeechobee ranks second by the International Hurricane Research Center in a list of U.S. mainland areas most vulnerable to hurricanes. Reports indicate that the lake's Herbert Hoover Dike is susceptible to failure caused by water seepage and piping at high water levels whether by long-term changes due to rainfall or by hurricane events.

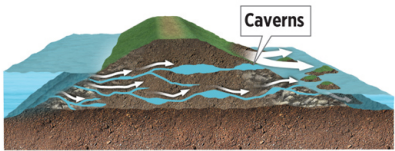
How damage occurs

Water seeps through cracks and crevices in the dike, creating damaging channels inside it called "piping," which leads to leaks (1). As lake levels and water pressure increase, the piping can grow into caverns that can potentially undermine the dike (2). A hurricane's storm surge against the dike can dramatically worsen the strain.

1 PIPING LEADS TO LEAKS ...



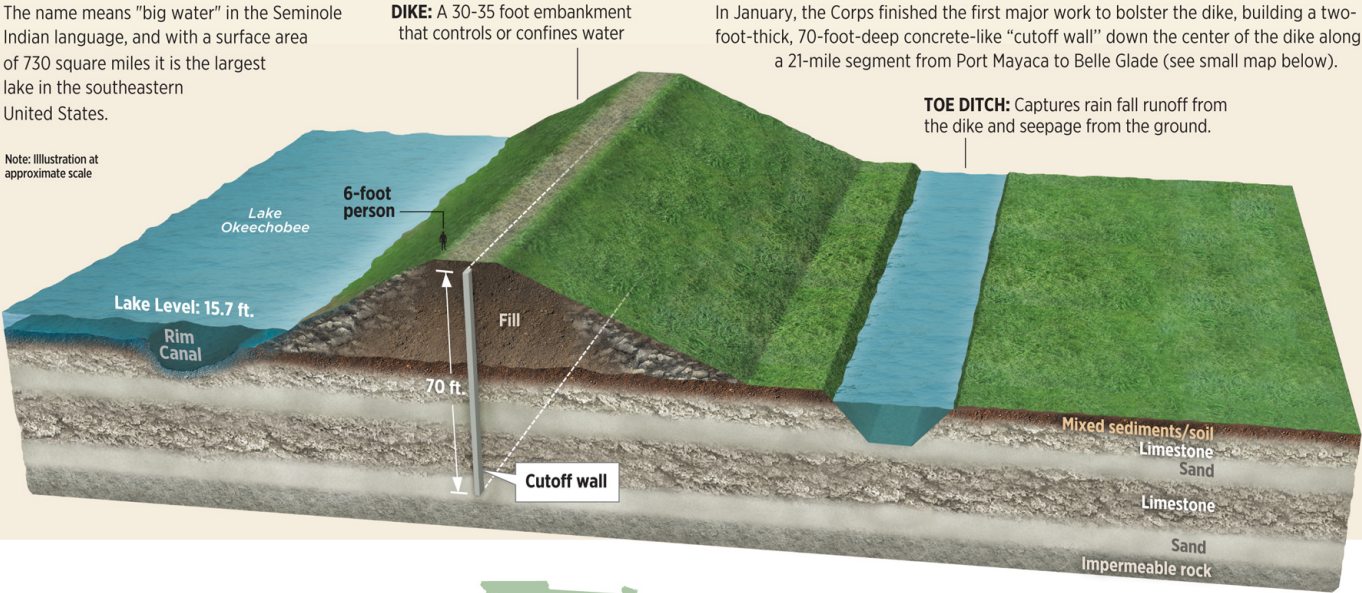
2 ... AND CAN UNDERMINE THE DIKE



LAKE OKEECHOBEE

The name means "big water" in the Seminole Indian language, and with a surface area of 730 square miles it is the largest lake in the southeastern United States.

Note: Illustration at approximate scale



First efforts to repair the dike

In January, the Corps finished the first major work to bolster the dike, building a two-foot-thick, 70-foot-deep concrete-like "cutoff wall" down the center of the dike along a 21-mile segment from Port Mayaca to Belle Glade (see small map below).

A potential for flooding

Flood waters from Lake Okeechobee could extend for miles, depending on water levels and which of eight "reaches" or segments of the 143-mile-long Herbert Hoover Dike fails. Although this map utilizes an improbably high 25-foot lake level — and was developed only as an exercise to compare computer inundation models — it does provide a rough outline of potentially vulnerable areas to flooding from failures along each reach. In the event of a breach, not every reach would be impacted at the same time.

Belle Glade	17,817	COMMUNITIES THAT COULD BE AFFECTED (2012 POPULATION DATA)
BSR*	566	
Canal Point	367	
Clewiston	7,036	
Indiantown	6,083	
Moore Haven	1,714	
Okeechobee	5,585	
Pahokee	5,962	
South Bay	4,924	
W. Palm Beach	101,903	

About 40,000 residents live in the immediate vicinity of the lake, but many more live in the counties that are at risk.

*Brighton Seminole Reservation, 2000 census data

LAKE OKEECHOBEE LEVELS

Lake Level Projection Probabilities

High Medium Low

