



Association of State Dam Safety Officials

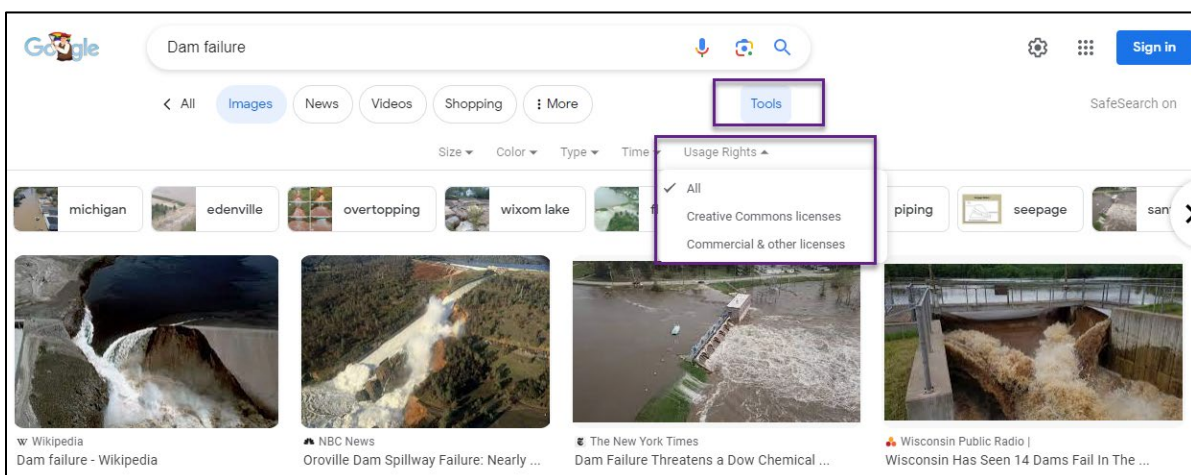
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Tips on Use of Online Photos and Avoiding Copyright Infringement

- **Determine Copyright Owner.** It can sometimes be difficult to determine the copyright owner and here are a few ways to check:
 - Look for a caption that might include an image credit, link, or contact email address
 - Check for a watermark across the image
 - Check the data stored within the image file
 - Perform a [Google Reverse Image Search](#) – you can either enter the image’s URL or upload a file. This search should identify where the image is located on the internet and can assist with determining the image’s owner and whether it is free to use.
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 - Websites such as Pexels, Kaboompics, Pixabay, Public Domain Pictures, Wikimedia Commons, Morguefile, and NYPL Digital Collections have many free images. While many of these sites have images in the public domain, double check to see if there are any applicable license agreements for the images.
 - Note, Google Images has a function to search for images based on usage rights, as follows:
 1. Search for picture in Google Images
 2. Click on Tools
 3. Select Usage Rights



Additional Public Domain Information

- **Works published or registered in the U.S. more than 95 years ago are now in the public domain.**
- **Published works copyrighted 95 years ago or less may be under copyright restriction:**
 - **Published works registered for copyright in the U.S. through Dec. 31, 1963 are now in the public domain unless the copyright was renewed.** If the copyright was not renewed, the copyright expired after 28 years. If the copyright was renewed, the item is protected for 95 years from the copyright date. The only way to determine whether the item was copyrighted and that the copyright was renewed is to do a copyright search (see information above about [copyright searching](#)). [see #2-5 in the chart of examples below]
 - **Works published with a copyright notice or registered for copyright between January 1, 1964 and December 31, 1977 are generally protected for 95 years** [see #6 in the chart of examples below].

Examples:

	If the work was published or registered for copyright in the U.S. in...	Doing the math	In the public domain in the U.S. as of
1)	1923 and the copyright was renewed	$1923+100=2023$; $2023-4=2019$	Jan. 1, 2019
2)	1924 and the copyright was renewed	$1924+100=2024$; $2024-4=2020$	Jan. 1, 2020
3)	1936 and the copyright was renewed	$1936+100=2036$; $2036-4=2032$	Jan. 1, 2032
4)	1961 but the copyright was not renewed	$1961+28=1989$	1990
5)	1961 and the copyright was renewed	$1961+100=2061$; $2061-4=2057$	Jan. 1, 2057
6)	1965 whether or not the copyright was renewed	$1965+100=2065$; $2065-4=2061$	Jan. 1, 2061

- Works created by individuals on or after Jan. 1, 1978 are generally protected for the creator's life plus 70 years