



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District®

News Release

Release No. 03-17

Contact: Nicole Dowell
(314) 331-8068

For Release: **IMMEDIATE – September 29, 2003**

1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

Removal of boat from Mel Price Locks and Dam

Alton, Ill. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is cooperating with and assisting the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in their ongoing investigation of last night's boating accident, which killed four and injured two.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. a ski boat crashed into Mel Price Locks and Dam's tainter gate 7. A citizen downstream of Mel Price on the Missouri side called 911.

The Mel Price lock operator was able to locate the boat using security cameras. Rescue personnel from the Alton Fire Department and other organizations responded, and by 9 p.m. all victims were recovered.

IDNR conducted a preliminary investigation last night, took pictures and the boat was secured.

The Corps' Motor Vessel Grand Tower and Fisher crane will be used to recover the boat. The IDNR will impound the boat in order to complete their investigation. Copies of the completed investigation will be made available through the IDNR's Springfield Office. The media can call 217-785-0970 for further information.

Mel Price is a well-lit structure, and all lights were operational and clearly marked at the time of the accident. Although well lit, boating within restricted areas is very dangerous and not allowed.

This accident is a reminder of how important it is that boaters take appropriate water safety classes and know the conditions of the river before boating.