



News Release

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St. Louis District Goes to 24 Hour Ops and Deploys More Employees

ST. LOUIS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District Emergency Operations Center began 24-hour operations last night in order to facilitate response and assistance to citizens affected by Hurricane Katrina. So far the District has deployed 36 employees to assist with various emergency response missions in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has assigned the temporary roofing mission for the State of Mississippi to the St. Louis District's Temporary Roofing Planning and Response Team (PRT). The team will be operating out of the Gulfport Airport, which is closed and being used as a recovery response staging area. Eight quality assurance team members deployed to Mississippi today.

The PRT is responsible for initiating the contract for temporary roofs, acquiring Rights of Entry from homeowners, and providing quality control while temporary roofs are placed over damaged homes by the contractor. The team's goal is to start the installation of temporary roofs this week.

Twenty-one Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District employees are expected to arrive in St. Louis tomorrow. The employees, who will be on temporary duty with the St. Louis District, will be staying in area hotels and have been invited to bring their families. The St. Louis District has been coordinating with the Mississippi Valley Division and New Orleans District to determine the level of assistance New Orleans needs with its civil works mission. New Orleans District has the largest civil works mission in the Division, roughly \$400 million. The New Orleans District employees and St. Louis District staff will work together to close out New Orleans District's \$400 million fiscal year 2005 budget. St. Louis is also prepared to assist New Orleans with other civil work functions to include lock operations, dredging and other navigation related issues; execution and management of construction contracts; planning and programs assistance and any other areas designated as high priorities for New Orleans.

Additionally, the District has opened its camping facilities free-of-charge to hurricane evacuees. This includes Carlyle Lake (Carlyle, Ill.), Lake Shelbyville (Shelbyville, Ill.), Mark Twain Lake (Monroe City, Mo.), Rend Lake (Benton, Ill.) and Wappapello Lake (Wappapello, Mo.)

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For more information or interviews regarding recovery operations in Mississippi, contact Michael Logue, Chief, Public Affairs, (601) 631- 5052, 601-529-5052 cell or email at michael.h.logue@usace.army.mil. Media interested in navigation and channel conditions for the lower Mississippi River can access the latest updates at <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/hurricane/chur.htm> by clicking on the 'Navigation' link.