



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

# News Release

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## **St. Louis Corps of Engineers activates Emergency Operations Center**

**St. Louis, Mo.** – Flood preparations are taking center stage in the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the Mississippi River rises in the northern area of the district. District Commander Col. Lewis Setliff activated the emergency operations center at noon, Tuesday, to increase awareness and to be better prepared to meet any emerging situations.

Corps personnel are contacting drainage and levee districts to coordinate flood fighting activities should they become necessary and to ensure such items as sand bags, pumps and plastic are available if they are needed. There are concerns that some non-Federal levees from Saverton, Mo., southward may be overtopped if water levels rise high enough.

Events are being driven by the southward progress of flood waters from heavy rain fall in recent days in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and northern Illinois.

Lock 24 at Clarksville, Mo., is projected to be closed by Monday, June 16. Current National Weather Service predictions are for the river to crest at a stage of 34.9 feet on Friday morning June 20. This is 9.9 feet above flood stage and within inches of the top of the concrete lock walls.

At Winfield, Mo., Lock 25 is slated to close Tuesday, June 17. The Weather Service predicts the crest will be 35.3 feet then. While this is 9.3 feet above flood state, it is nearly two feet below the lock walls.

Locks must be closed to remove and properly store electric motors that move lock gates and culvert valves. The time necessary to bring the locks back into operation will be determined by when water levels recede, whether or not there are damages and how long it takes to reinstall machinery.

St. Louis District emergency experts caution people who live along the Mississippi or who may travel near the river to be watchful for any changing conditions. Particularly they should never drive into water on roads. Even if they think they know how deep it is, road surfaces may have been damaged and they may miscalculate the force of water crossing the road.

**Note to editors:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts are organized along watershed boundaries. Additional information for areas on the Mississippi River upstream of Lock and Dam 22 and, on the Illinois River, upstream of LaGrange Lock and Dam can contact the Rock Island District Public Affairs Office at 309-794-5274.

Based on current river predictions, the following locks are scheduled for closure:

- June 12: **Lock 16** (Illinois City, Ill. – River Mile 457.2), **Lock 17** (New Boston, Ill. – River Mile 437.1), and **Lock 18** (Gladstone, Ill. – River Mile 410.5)
- June 13: **Lock 20** (Canton, Mo. – River Mile 343.2)
- June 14: **Lock 19** (Keokuk, Iowa – River Mile 364.2), **Lock 21** (Quincy, Ill. – River Mile 324.9), and **Lock 22** (Saverton, Mo. – River Mile 301.2)