



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **Corps of Engineers monitoring river stages**

**June 24, St. Louis** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers', St. Louis District is stepping up monitoring of flood protection systems and communities as river stages continue to rise across the St. Louis region.

Some of the public is already experiencing inconveniences like inundated roads and closed floodgates due to rising river stages. In the days to come, additional floodgates will be closed as the Mississippi River and some of its tributaries continue to rise. The National Weather Service currently predicts that the Mississippi River will crest more than five feet above flood stage at 35.8 feet this Sunday at St. Louis and at 25.9 feet at Grafton on Saturday. However, any significant rainfall upriver of the metropolitan area could change these forecasts.

In St. Louis, the U.S. Coast Guard has activated the Waterway Action Plan for the St. Louis Harbor. The WAP provides general information and target gage readings to be used as a guideline for activities on the waterways in the Mississippi River basin. It is reviewed annually by members of the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and river industry representatives and goes into effect at St. Louis when the river stage is at 25.0 feet and rising.

Currently, the Coast Guard prohibits recreational traffic thru the St. Louis Harbor. For commercial traffic, a safety zone has been established, requiring southbound tows greater than 600 feet in length, excluding the towboat, to limit transit to daylight hours only. Additionally, all towing vessels should have a minimum of 250 horsepower for each loaded barge and should proceed at the slowest safe operating speed based upon prevailing conditions in order to minimize wake damage to personal property.

On Tuesday, the St. Louis District closed Kaskaskia Lock and Dam due to high water. That lock and dam closes when river elevation is projected to crest greater than 380 feet NGVD. This morning, the elevation was 380 feet and a forecasted crest at 381 feet or greater, depending on precipitation upriver on the Mississippi River. Current NWS predictions do not predicate the need to close any other locks in the St. Louis District.

Elsewhere across the region, St. Louis District personnel are contacting drainage and levee districts as well as communities to learn of their concerns and find out whether they need any supplies like sandbags, plastic sheeting or pumps.

Along the Wood River Levee, adjacent to Melvin Price Locks and Dam, additional monitoring and ponding of water will be visible from the berm highway. These interim risk reduction measures and others are in accordance with the operating plan that was coordinated with the City of Alton, local businesses and the Wood River Drainage and Levee District.

- More -

## USACE monitoring rivers 2/2/2

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers safety experts and other authorities want to remind long time residents and inform newcomers of several measures they may take to best ensure their own safety.

- Keep up with weather reports and other notices. The media works to get the most up to date information out. Listen to and watch news reports so you are not caught unprepared. If local emergency authorities advise any action, follow their directions immediately.
- If you live in a flood-prone area have a plan. Know what you will take with you, where you will go and who you will inform when you get there.
- Don't drive into water on roads. Road surfaces may be damaged or gone and rapidly flowing water can move a car into danger quickly and without warning. If you encounter water on the road, turn around and seek another route. There is no short cut to safety.
- Use extreme caution when in the vicinity of flooded areas. Stay well clear of flood waters and banklines as conditions change rapidly.

You may track river and other weather data on at least two web sites:

**U.S Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District:**

<http://mvs-wc.mvs.usace.army.mil/dresriv.html>

**National Weather Service:**

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2>