

## **NEWS RELEASE**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division Public Affairs  
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### **Corps of Engineers' update to Hurricane Katrina response**

VICKSBURG, MISS. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' main priorities in responding to Hurricane Katrina continues to be saving lives, sustaining lives and beginning the recovery process.

Today, the agency continues the process of un-watering the city of New Orleans and is providing essential services to the citizens of Louisiana and Mississippi.

In New Orleans, on the morning of Sept. 7, approximately 60 percent of the city is still under water. Three pumps are now operating at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal and are discharging water at around 2,250 cubic feet per second, or cfs.

Pump station 19 at the Industrial Canal, just north of Florida Avenue, is currently pumping 1,300 cfs. An additional generator is to arrive today that will allow the Corps to activate another pump at this location and remove an additional 1,000 cfs. Pump station 8, located in St. Bernard Parish in the vicinity of St. Mary, is running at full capacity at 837 cfs.

Several small pumps throughout the city are also now online, and the Corps anticipates bringing more online as the week progresses.

Blackhawk helicopters continue to deliver 7,000 pound sandbags to London Avenue. Sandbagging operations continue 24 hours a day.

Corps' personnel are also supporting the recovery efforts of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA. Their missions include providing water, ice, emergency power and temporary roofing and housing, as well as removing debris and providing technical assistance.

In Louisiana, the Corps has delivered more than 724 trucks of ice and 1,083 trucks of water. The agency is currently clearing US-90 to allow emergency vehicles better access into the area. Operation Blue Roof, which includes providing temporary roofing for homeowners, will begin today in Slidell, La.

In Mississippi, the Corps has delivered more than 669 trucks of ice and 349 trucks of water. Debris removal began earlier this week. Operation Blue Roof began yesterday in Harrison and Pearl River counties. Generators have been delivered to hospitals and other emergency response facilities.

Specially-trained Corps' disaster teams from all over the country are assisting in the planning effort to build temporary housing sites for up to 50,000 hurricane evacuees from both states.

The Mississippi River is now open during daylight hours to shallow draft traffic and deep draft vessels less than 39 feet. A contractor is currently removing obstacles in the Southwest Pass, which is restricting deep draft navigation.

The Army Corps of Engineers, in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, provides disaster response assistance to the nation, working in concert with 30 federal departments, as well as, state and local governments.