

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. – More than 1,000 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' employees are on the ground and actively engaged in Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

They are supporting efforts to save and sustain lives by pumping water out of New Orleans and by supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA.

In the last 24 hours, the Corps has provided more than 817,000 pounds of ice and more than 500,000 liters of water to the citizens of Louisiana and Mississippi. Our disaster missions that provide temporary roofing, temporary housing and power, as well as removing debris, are all underway and successfully operating in both states.

As power is being restored to the city of New Orleans, the Corps is bringing more pumps online. As of noon today, approximately 28 pumps in New Orleans are now operational, extracting nearly 9,000 cubic feet per second, or cfs, of water out of the city. Another nine pumps are operational in the Plaquemines Parish, extracting nearly 1,400 additional cubic feet per second. As of this morning, Sept. 8, 60 percent of the city is still under water.

The Corps expects to close two breaches at the London Avenue Canal within 24 hours. Employees and contractors are temporarily using sandbags to close these holes. As soon as this is finished, the Corps will use portable pumps to remove water there.

Engineers found two breaches on the east side of the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal and one on its west side. They closed the larger of the two breaches on the east side yesterday and are filling the smaller of the two breaches with clay and stone today. Work will begin on the west side as soon as feasible.

The Corps is concerned with the quality of the water being moved from New Orleans to Lake Ponchartrain, but our first priority is the health and safety of residents and emergency responders in New Orleans. We are working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as we drain the water.

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.