

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division

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Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers, gears-up for predicted Mississippi River flooding

VICKSBURG, Miss., March 24, 2008 – The Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, initiated Phase I flood preparations Tuesday, March 24, 2008, in support of regional levee boards due to high Mississippi River stages with higher stages forecasted.

The lands affected by the current high water are located along the Mississippi River north and west of Vicksburg and to a limited degree areas along the Yazoo river due to backwater flooding.

Phase I activities begin when the river gage at Vicksburg reaches 43 feet or bankfull. The river is expected to be at bankfull overnight in Greenville as well. Phase I is flood preparations. Phase II, which would occur at higher river elevations, is considered the actual flood fight. Current predictions from the National Weather Service take the river at Vicksburg to 46 feet during the next two weeks. For more information and official forecasts please go to the National Weather Service website.

During Phase I activities, Corps of Engineers personnel deploy to the field and monitor all federal flood control works including levees, flood walls and pumping stations in support of levee boards and local officials. Corps personnel also coordinate closely with city, county and state agencies in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Corps personnel will continue to monitor rainfall in the Missouri, upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins, as well as National Weather Service forecasts to determine if Phase II flood fight activities are required.

Mississippi Rivers and Tributaries Project flood protection works in the Lower Mississippi Valley protect many thousands of homes, millions of lives and vast tracts of fertile cropland.

The Mississippi Valley Division includes portions of 12 states and encompasses 370,000 square miles. The [Mississippi Valley Division](#) includes six district offices, which are responsible for

conducting programs and activities and are located in St. Paul, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a major Army command with a broad set of missions and capabilities. One of its missions is to provide assistance, within its authorities, when natural disasters or other emergencies occur.

Emergency preparedness and response is primarily a state and local responsibility. However, in instances when the nature of the disaster exceeds the capabilities of state and local interests, the Mississippi Valley Division may provide help to save human life, prevent immediate human suffering or relieve property damage.

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