

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division

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Corps of Engineers returns to Phase II floodfight activities

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 4, 2008 – The Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, moved back into Phase II floodfighting activities today due to high Mississippi River stages. The area of flooding is located in the northern portion of the Memphis District.

The lands affected by the current high water are located along the Mississippi River on the west bank Scott City, Missouri, to the Arkansas-Missouri state line and on the east bank from Cairo, Illinois.

Phase II floodfight activities begin when the river gage at Cairo, Ill., approaches approximately 52.0 feet or the Cape Girardeau, Mo., gage reaches 43.0 feet.

In response to these river forecasts, Memphis District Commander Col. Tom Smith initiated Phase II operations on Friday, April 4th.

During Phase II floodfight activities, Corps of Engineers personnel begin more intensive monitoring of flood control works including levees, floodwalls and pumping stations. Technical and materiel assistance to local communities and flood control organizations is also made available to aid them in their floodfighting efforts.

The Corps has established field offices in Cape Girardeau, Mo., with eight Corps emergency workers on duty there, Caruthersville, Mo., with seven workers there and Dyersburg, Tenn., staffed by nine emergency workers.

The Corps' Division headquarters in Vicksburg, Miss, coordinates all floodfight activities in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The Corps' Emergency Operations Center in Memphis is directing floodfight activities in conjunction with the affected states, levee districts and other local interest groups.

The Federal flood protection works in the Lower Mississippi Valley protect many thousands of homes, millions of lives and vast tracts of fertile cropland. The Memphis District's flood control system has already prevented more than \$4.3 billion in flood damages and protected more than five million acres of cropland in the last decade alone.

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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