



## WEEKLY FOCUS - USACE Support to Hurricane Katrina Response

In support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S Army Corps of Engineers is working with local, state and federal partners to bring relief to the Gulf region.

### **The three priorities for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are:**

- First, supporting efforts to save lives and find people;
- Second, sustaining lives (water and shelter) and,
- Third, setting conditions for recovery (cleaning up, restoring infrastructure and navigation)

More than 1,700 Corps employees are actively engaged in recovery efforts, and numbers increase daily. Using the “Just Do It” card motto, Corps employees are empowered to make decisions regarding hurricane relief support on the spot as long as the decision is lawful, ethical and the employee is willing to be accountable for the action.

With more than \$2.8 billion in FEMA missions and more than \$36 million for Flood Control Coastal Emergencies, the Corps is working with government and contracting partners to meet the most urgent needs of ice, water, temporary roofing and housing, power assessment, and debris removal. Congress also approved \$400 million for Corps missions, such as fixing levees.

### **Mission updates as of today:**

**Ice mission:** 174 million pounds of ice delivered

**Water mission:** 44.5 million liters of bottled water delivered

**Power mission:** 159 generators installed

**Debris removal:** 390,487 cubic yards removed

**Temporary roofing:** 262 completed and 51,000 projected

**Temporary housing:** 8 units leased, 80 units ready, and 130 units identified

**Un watering:** Current un-watering estimates for New Orleans are that it will take up to 30 days to get the water out. We are pumping out more than 6 billion gallons of water per day (an Olympic-sized swimming pool every seven seconds). While water quality remains a concern, our priority is the health and safety of residents and responders. EPA is monitoring the water quality.

### **Reconstruction of New Orleans District:**

During and after disasters, the Corps’ victim district team concept is put into place. Col. Richard Wagenaar, commander of the New Orleans District, has shifted his attention to reconstituting the district, and Col. Duane Gapinski, Rock Island District, now has the lead on un-watering the city of New Orleans. Many of the New Orleans District’s 1,193 employees are available and waiting to return to work, and 75-100 are working at the emergency operations centers.

### **Financial Assistance for Corps Employees:**

Many team members have asked how they help fellow Corps team members who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Relief Fund has been established, and the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) also is available. FEEA is a Combined Federal Campaign participant and provides tax-free grants and/or no interest loans to eligible Corps employees. To donate to this fund:

1.) You may send checks to:

FEEA Army Corps of Engineers FUND, 8441 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123-9501

2.) By telephone: 303-933-7580 (credit card contributions)

3.) By Web: <https://www.givedirect.org/give/givefrm.asp?Action=GC&CID=4683>

4.) Through the Combined Federal Campaign:

a. Designate your CFC pledge to the Corps Fund as usual, or

b. Complete a CFC pledge card with “CFC #1234.” Make a copy and write “FUND” across the top. Mail to:

FEEA COE FUND, 8411 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123

The Safe Haven Program permits the Corps to pay the travel expenses, salary and a subsistence allowance to USACE employees and/or families who evacuated after a DoD evacuation order and whose home has been declared uninhabitable. See [http://www.cpms.osd.mil/fas/pay/pdf/Alternate\\_Safe\\_haven\\_designation.pdf](http://www.cpms.osd.mil/fas/pay/pdf/Alternate_Safe_haven_designation.pdf) Also check with FEMA and state emergency agencies for help. We expect to have more guidance for New Orleans employees soon as well as Q&A’s on Corps Web pages.

*We’re shoulder to shoulder with the brave people of New Orleans and Southeast Louisiana for the long haul. There are a million reasons why New Orleans has for decades been one of the great cities of our nation and the world. My team and I are absolutely committed to being here to add our energy to ensuring that it will be again. ... We’re all coming back, together.*

**Col. Richard P. Wagenaar, New Orleans District Commander**