



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New Orleans District

News Release

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Corps issues annual Atchafalaya evacuation warning

New Orleans – Landowners, residents, trailer owners, lessees and lessee–operators in the Atchafalaya Basin, the West Atchafalaya Floodway, the Morganza Floodway, and the Bayou des Glaises Loop have been reminded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that they are located, operating, or doing business in a floodway.

Corps officials warn that, when necessary, the floodways, which are vital to the passage of monumental Mississippi River floods to the Gulf of Mexico, may be operated, flooding homes, lands, buildings and trailers.

The warning went out to all landowners, residents and lessees in the affected areas. Those operating a water or gas well within the floodway were reminded to seal and cap wells to prevent contamination from floodwaters in case the floodway is used. Livestock owners were cautioned that grazing lands would also be flooded. The floodways are authorized by Congress and constructed, maintained and operated by the Corps of Engineers.

Atchafalaya Floodway Warning

Owners of trailers in the Morganza Floodway are reminded that they are there under Corps of Engineers permit, that they are required to hold the government harmless from any and all claims, that they must keep their trailers mobile, capable of being moved on short notice and add no permanent appendages to their trailers.

If the floodways must be operated, public notices will be given through local Civil Defense officials and all news media sufficiently in advance to allow for evacuation of people and livestock and removal of personal belongings. Corps officials warn that quick action must be taken once public notice is given.

Current river levels do not indicate whether or not the floodways will have to be operated this season.

In addition, farmers and commercial pesticide applicators that maintain supplies of pesticides must secure and protect these products. In case of high water, measures must be taken to prevent spill of pesticides, all in accordance with Louisiana Administrative Code Title 7, Pesticides. Also, any property owner that stores or permits storage of hazardous materials, hazardous waste, or NORM (Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material) on their property must take similar precautions.