



Media Advisory

Public Affairs Office, 7400 Leake Avenue
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May 8, 2008

Hurricane preparation exercise set May 13

What: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in coordination with our local partners, is holding a hurricane preparation and response exercise May 13 designed to rehearse the Corps' response plan and improve coordination.

Attendees will see the gates and pumps in action. Behind the scenes our emergency response teams will also be faced with various simulated emergencies to practice reactions to unforeseen crises and refine response times. In addition, we will have our local government liaisons in the emergency operations centers in the 13 coastal parishes and teams deployed to our alternate command post and reserve emergency operations center in Vicksburg, Miss. and Port Allen, La., respectively.

Where: While the exercise is scheduled to involve many simulations throughout the hurricane and storm damage risk reduction system, the most visible activities will be at the control structures. All media is invited to the 17th Street Canal and Harvey Canal to view the gates and pumps in action.

17th Street Canal: Take Lake Marina Avenue toward the yacht harbor. Turn left on the gravel driveway where Lake Marina Avenue crosses the floodwall. After signing in, you will be escorted to the appropriate spot.

Harvey Canal: Intersection between Lapalco and Peters Road, just below the Lapalco Bridge.

All site visits to Orleans Ave. and London Ave. canals must be scheduled two hours in advance for staffing purposes.

When: Tuesday, May 13, 2008

All times are approximate and will depend on path and strength of the simulated Hurricane Zeus.

Gate closure times:

London – 8:30 a.m. 17th – 9:30 a.m. Orleans – 11 a.m. Harvey – 11 a.m.

Who: New Orleans District hurricane response employees, levee districts and authorities, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and representatives from the 13 coastal parishes.

Planning to attend? Please call 504-862-2201 to schedule an interview and/or site visit.
All visitors must bring their own hard hats and wear closed-toe shoes and long pants.

Exercise is not open to public.

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Media roundtable: For more information on this exercise, attend the media roundtable scheduled for May 12 at 11 a.m. in DARM A at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District, 7400 Leake Ave., New Orleans. The roundtable will be a great opportunity to speak directly to district leadership and operations managers, as well as some of our partners. A separate media advisory will be sent with more information regarding the roundtable.

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