



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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Contact:

Amanda Ellison 202-761-0289

Amanda.D.Ellison@saj02.usace.army.mil

World Wide Web:

www.usace.army.mil

News Release:

www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/newsrel.htm

Doug Garman 202-761-1806

Doug.M.Garman@hq02.usace.army.mil

Progress Continues for Hurricane Katrina Cleanup Efforts

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has been working with local, state and federal partners, to bring relief to the Gulf following Hurricane Katrina. Nearly 2,400 Corps employees are actively engaged in recovery efforts.

With more than \$2.9 billion in missions, the Corps is working closely with its government agencies and private contractors to meet the most urgent needs, including providing ice and water, temporary roofing, temporary housing, power assessment, and debris removal across the area impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

In preparation for potential impacts by Hurricane Rita, the Corps of Engineers is preparing for the storm by pre-positioning personnel and equipment. We will continue to closely monitor the track of the upcoming storm.

The following FEMA missions are being performed in the affected areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The following is a synopsis of the activities underway:

Status of Levees and Protection:

Work continues to repair the levees as Engineers and local authorities are continuing to assess the damages to the levee system, make interim repairs, and remove floodwater from the city.

The levee system in its present condition does not ensure that the city of New Orleans will be protected from flooding resulting from storms or hurricanes. The Corps first priority is to first bring the system back to its pre-hurricane level of protection and then determine what longer term action is needed. The Corps has developed a phased plan for restoring the area's storm safeguards, working in partnership with local levee boards and contractors.

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PROGRESS 2-2-2

Un-watering:

The Corps estimates the New Orleans area is more than 80 percent un-watered. As of today, it is estimated that the overall un-watering effort will be completed in early to mid-October, provided there is no significant rainfall between now and then.

The Corps will continue to assist local officials in repairing organic pumps, designed to remove city water, even after the city is dry. The un-watering effort will remove most, but not all of the water. There will be some isolated pockets of water that will remain. However, these pockets of water should not hamper recovery efforts such as debris removal, structural assessments and restoration of critical services.

Water and ice:

In Mississippi, the water and ice missions are entering the closeout phase. A total of 5,500 trucks of ice, water and Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), supported the Mississippi response. Deliveries totaled 100 million pounds of ice, 38 million liters of water, and 8.1 million MREs.

Debris removal:

To date, more than 2.6 million cubic yards of debris has been removed in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. It is estimated more than 24 million cubic yards will be removed during cleanup efforts.

Operation Blue Roof:

In Mississippi and Louisiana "Operation Blue Roof" is underway in several counties. The Operation Blue Roof program provides temporary plastic sheeting for roofs that were damaged during Hurricane Katrina. Over 25,000 requests for assistance have been received thus far. It is estimated over 50,000 homes will need plastic sheeting.

Power Assessments:

In Mississippi, the power mission is nearing closeout phase as power is restored. Out of 415 assessments, 414 have been completed. In Louisiana, 401 power assessments out of 470 have been completed.

Temporary Housing:

Temporary housing is being handled using a national/regional approach through the FEMA Housing Area Command.

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PROGRESS 3-3-3

Other missions:

Recently, Congress approved a \$400 million hurricane relief package separate from funded FEMA missions. The emergency supplemental appropriation covers navigation and flood control. Of that amount, \$200 million is for navigation work in the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast region and \$200 million is for flood control and costal emergencies. Those funds are being used for damage assessments and immediate repairs to the levees in New Orleans as well as assessments and preparations for long-term flood damage reduction.

The priority of the Corps is to support efforts to save lives and find people, sustain lives, and setting conditions for recovery.

The Army Corps of Engineers, in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), provides disaster response assistance to the nation, working in concert with 30 federal departments, as well as, state and local governments.

For more information on the Army Corps of Engineers response to Hurricane Katrina, please visit our web site at www.usace.army.mil.

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