



**US Army Corps  
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District  
Public Affairs Office

# News Release

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## Corps reschedules NavLock classes for recreational boaters

**BURBANK, Wash.** – Operations officials at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam have rescheduled “how-to” classes for recreational boaters using U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation locks to travel up and down the Columbia and Snake rivers.

The classes, previously set for May 20, were cancelled when a severe thunderstorm moved into the area May 19, bringing heavy rains and 70 mph winds that toppled trees and scattered debris in high-use parks near the dam. Park rangers were redirected to storm cleanup efforts.

Boaters are invited to participate in free, one-hour seminars rescheduled for Saturday, June 3, at Ice Harbor Dam to learn how to safely use the navigation system. Navigation lock operators and park rangers at the dam will provide this session twice on June 3. The first session starts at 9 a.m.; the second class begins at noon. Both sessions will start promptly so attendees can get the procedure familiarization and then move to observe scheduled lockages at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

“We want to help people learn how to be comfortable with the process of getting upstream and downstream through the navigation lock,” said Russ Gilliam, lock operator at Ice Harbor Dam. “We’re going to show them how to avoid lessons learned the hard way by other boaters.”

Attendees must bring valid photo identification to enter the navigation lock area. All access to these sessions will be from the north shore access along the Snake River. To get there, take U.S. Hwy. 12, east of the Tri-Cities, toward Burbank; turn east onto the “Pasco-Kahlotus Highway,” and travel about nine miles east; turn at the large panel sign marked “Ice Harbor Dam,” and follow it to the indicated parking for these classes. Attendees should ***not*** bring their own boats.

“We’re going to use a Corps boat for the lockage demonstration. We want these sessions to be interesting for our participants, so we’ve minimized the things people need to know or do to get the most out of this,” said Gilliam.

Planners are hoping for great weather Saturday, but as an inclement weather alternative, the classes will be rescheduled and an announcement made through the media for the same times and place on Sunday, June 4.

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