



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Memphis District

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Corps of Engineers adds Arkansas to flood fight response

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 25, 2008 – The Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, initiated Phase I flood fighting activities in Eastern Arkansas yesterday due to high Mississippi and White river stages.

During Phase I flood fight activities, Corps of Engineers personnel deploy to the field and monitor all federal flood control works including levees, flood walls and pumping stations. Corps personnel also provide technical assistance and flood fighting resources to areas impacted by high water.

“Our primary mission during a flood fight is to protect people and property,” said Memphis District Commander, Col. Thomas Smith. “The key to a successful flood fight is to coordinate our efforts with local community efforts. We are also working closely with local levee boards, the Governor’s office and members of Congress to reduce flood damages in Arkansas.”

The District’s current White River Phase I flood fight area extends along the White River from just below Augusta to Des Arc to Clarendon, with the current projected crest at Des Arc expected to reach 33.5 feet on March 25th, and the crest for Clarendon expected to reach 33.5 feet on March 28th.

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/forecast/tributaries/LOWER_WHITE_BASIN/DSCA4.shtml

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Flood Fight 2-2-2-2

The projected crest for Des Arc is higher than records show for the 1982-83 flood peak (32.5 feet in December 1982). The record at Des Arc was 37.35 in 1949. The peak for Clarendon in January 1983 was 31.2 feet with a record of 43.3 feet set in 1927.

Additionally, high river stages will flood lands between the Mississippi River and the river's mainline levee system from the Arkansas-Missouri state line to the Arkansas-Louisiana border.

Phase II flood fighting activities are not anticipated in Arkansas at this time. During Phase II flood fight activities, Corps of Engineers personnel begin more intensive monitoring of flood control works including levees, floodwalls and pumping stations.

The Federal flood protection works in the Lower Mississippi Valley protect many thousands of homes, millions of lives and vast tracts of fertile cropland. The Memphis District's flood control system has prevented more than \$4.3 billion in flood damages and protected more than five million acres of cropland in the last decade alone.