



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
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News Release

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Corps offers free navigation lock training for boaters at Ice Harbor

Burbank, Wash., – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is offering free training on Saturday, May 21, to recreational boaters interested in learning how to move through the navigation locks up and down the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Two one-hour seminars will be held at Ice Harbor Dam. The first session starts at 11 a.m., and the second at 1 p.m. Both sessions will start promptly so attendees can familiarize themselves with the proper procedures before observing scheduled lockages at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

“We have a great deal of small watercraft traffic transiting through the navigation locks and some boaters may be intimidated by them,” said Russ Gilliam, a lock operator at Ice Harbor. “We want to help boaters learn the proper techniques for using the locks so they can get comfortable with the process of moving upstream and downstream and avoid mistakes others have made,” he added.

Attendees must bring along valid photo identification to enter the navigation lock area. All access to these sessions will be from the north shore along the Snake River. The access is via U.S. Hwy. 12 east of the Tri-Cities, turn east onto the “Pasco-Kahlotus Highway” and travel about nine miles straight out and turn at the large panel sign marked “Ice Harbor Dam” and follow it to the indicated parking for these sessions.

Attendees should **not** bring their own boats. The Corps will provide a boat for the lockage demonstration and have a convenient bag of information handouts and water safety information materials and reminders. The sessions will be short but attendees can bring along a snack and water bottle or other soft drink, if they choose.

Media is invited and encouraged to attend.

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