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New Orleans District

News Release

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High water closes Bonnet Carré Spillway to ATVs and 4-wheel drive trucks

NEW ORLEANS – High water has forced the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to close areas in the Bonnet Carré Spillway at Norco that are designated for all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and 4-wheel drive trucks.

Higher-than-normal tides in Lake Pontchartrain have flooded low-lying portions of the areas, making them dangerous for such recreation. High water is expected to persist for several days. That would be the minimum in order to for water to recede and dry sufficiently to permit reopening.

Other visitors to the Bonnet Carré flood-control project are asked to exercise caution and heed all posted safety rules. Further restrictions may be necessary on the use of the spillway as Hurricane Isidore moves into the northern Gulf of Mexico.

The spillway's primary responsibility is to relieve flooding on the Mississippi River by diverting water at up to 250,000 cubic feet per second to Lake Pontchartrain, 5½ miles to the north.

Web brochure : <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/bcarre/bcarre.htm>