



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

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Army Corps of Engineers make emergency repairs to Industrial Canal levees, pumping continues

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 25 – Nearly 400 large sandbags and tons of rock have stopped the inflow of water into the Lower 9th Ward here and pumping operations have already begun to remove the floodwaters from the area.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers placed the large 3,000- to 7,000-pound sandbags with military and civilian helicopters Saturday and Sunday. The sandbags will serve as a temporary repair for the Industrial Canal levee that overtopped Friday after wind-driven floodwaters overtopped emergency repairs put in place following Hurricane Katrina.

Water in the Industrial Canal has receded more than 5 feet since Friday's overtopping and pumping operations have already begun to remove the floodwaters from the area.

"We are working around the clock to once again dry the area," said Col. Duane Gapinski, commander of the Corps' Unwatering Task Force. "Working with the city sewer and water board, we were able to pump water from the area this weekend. We are also barging in additional temporary pumps today to the area near Florida Avenue that will help us quicken the unwatering of the area."

The area is expected to be pumped dry within the next seven days, Gapinski said. Work will continue on shoring up the emergency repairs throughout the week. No additional helicopter sandbag placements are expected in the area.

Temporary levee repairs throughout the New Orleans areas continue to hold. Teams from the Corps continue to monitor the repairs made after Hurricane Katrina. The steel sheetpiling installed at the mouth of the 17th Street and London Ave. canals last week should be removed within the next 48 hours if lake levels continue stabilize. The temporary pilings provided protection from storm surge during Hurricane Rita's approach preventing water from endangering the temporary repairs made to the canal

walls in the area. Using sheetpiling on the industrial canal was not possible because of the canal's depth and width, Gapinski said.

The Corps is taking a three-phase approach to the levees in New Orleans, Gapinski said. First, the Corps is charged with removing the water from the city and assessing the structural integrity of the levee. Second the Corps will provide an interim level of protection to see the city through this storm season and the traditional high water months of winter. Lastly, the Corps is charged with returning the system to a pre-Katrina strength by June of next year, he said.

Southwest of New Orleans, the Corps is currently responding to a parish request for assistance to fill a breach in a local levee in Terrebonne Parish near the city of Montagut. Eight helicopters will begin placing large sandbags on the damaged levee today. Work there is expected to take two to three days.

For more information, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs Office in New Orleans at 504-862-1231