



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New Orleans District

News Release

Public Affairs Office, 7400 Leake Avenue
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Hall, 504-862-2201
February 15, 2005

Corps' 2005 Atchafalaya evacuation warning

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has issued the 2005 high-water season reminder letter, warning all interests in the Atchafalaya Basin, that the floodways they occupy may be operated and thus flood homes, lands, buildings and trailers.

The letter, issued annually, was addressed to all landowners, trailer owners, residents, lessees and lessee operators in the:

- Atchafalaya Basin.
- West Atchafalaya Floodway.
- Morganza Floodway.
- Bayou des Glaises Loop.
- Old River Control Structure Project.

“In the event the actual operation of the floodways is required, public notice of such use will be given through your local Civil Defense as well as all news media, sufficiently in advance to allow time for evacuation of people and livestock and for removal of personal belongings,” says the warning, signed by Col. Peter Rowan, district engineer, New Orleans District.

“On receipt of such notice, expeditious action must be taken to protect life and property.”

The letter was mailed to 1,200 addressees subject to possible flood evacuation. Copies were also sent to state and local officials, including levee boards and Emergency Preparedness (Civil Defense) offices.

[High Water 2005 site](#)

Letter follows next 2 pages:



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

January 31, 2005

Real Estate Division

TO: ALL LANDOWNERS, RESIDENTS AND LESSEES IN THE BAYOU DES
GLAISES LOOP, OLD RIVER CONTROL STRUCTURE PROJECT, THE WEST
ATCHAFALAYA FLOODWAY AND THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN FLOODWAY

AND ALL LANDOWNERS/TRAILER OWNERS OR LESSEE-OPERATORS IN THE
MORGANZA FLOODWAY

You are reminded that you are located, operating, or doing business in a floodway, or a portion of a floodway, which has been developed under appropriate Acts of Congress by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. This is a vital part of the overall project to handle and safely pass to the Gulf of Mexico the flood waters, which may from time to time, be generated in the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

As a resident or user of one of the above floodways, you must be aware that, should the operation of the floodway in which you are located be necessary, there is a possibility that your home and personal property may be flooded. If you operate any water or gas wells within the floodway, they must be sealed and capped to prevent any contamination from floodwaters in case the floodway is used. If you are a livestock owner, the land within the floodway on which your livestock is located may be flooded. Owners of trailers in the Morganza Floodway are reminded that in the consent granting them the right to be in the Floodway, they agreed to hold the Government harmless from any and all claims for damages due to flooding; to keep their trailers mobile and capable of being moved on short notice; and to add no permanent appendages to their trailers.

In addition to the above, the following conditions now apply:

"Farmers and commercial pesticide applicators that maintain supplies of pesticides must secure and protect these products. In case of high water, measures must be taken to prevent uncontained spills of pesticides, all in accordance with Louisiana Administrative Code Title 7, Pesticides. Also, any property owner that stores or permits storage of hazardous materials, hazardous waste, or NORM (Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material) on their property, must take similar precautions."

In the event the actual operation of the floodways is required, public notice of such use will be given through your local civil defense officials, as well as all news media, sufficiently in advance to allow time for evacuation of people and livestock and for removal of personal belongings. On receipt of such notice, expeditious action must be taken to protect life and property. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Rowan
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer

If you believe that you have received this annual notice in error or have a change of address, please complete the bottom portion of the page and return to:

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-RE-M
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

NAME AND ADDRESS ON ENVELOPE: _____

INFORMATION REQUESTED TO BE CHANGED:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP CODE: _____

REMARKS: _____
