



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Buffalo District
BUILDING STRONG®



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



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EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

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Telephone Directory

Buffalo District Emergency Management
Office(716) 879-4160

Dam
Safety Officer. (716) 879-4220

24 Hour
Emergency Phone.(716) 879-0395

United States Coast Guard District #9
• USCG Sector Ice Officer . .(313) 580-3617

*Local Emergency Management Offices are
listed in the telephone book under Emergency
Services, County Government*

State Emergency Management Offices (24 Hours)

- New York State
Warning Point(518) 292-2200
- Ohio(614) 889-7150
- Pennsylvania (717) 651-2001

U.S. Political Representatives are listed in the
telephone book under Congress, U.S. Government

Buffalo District Homepage Address:
<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil>

Forward

The Buffalo District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a major role in saving lives and easing human suffering during times of local and national disaster.

We respond during floods, storms and drought with emergency structures, technical assistance and drinking water supplies. When the recovery effort is made, we remove debris, find other water sources and rehabilitate structures.

The District's continual vigil over dam safety, emergency management training and inter-agency planning provides the best protection for your community and the nation.

This brochure gives a general overview of programs, services and contacts that will make you and your community more aware of the assistance that can be made available to you through the Buffalo District's Emergency Management Office.



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National Response Framework

In addition to our emergency authorities, the Corps also has a primary role in support of the National Response Framework. This document describes the basic measures in which the Federal government will mobilize resources and conduct activities to assist States in coping with the consequences of significant disasters.

Within the document, the Department of Defense has designated the United States Army Corps of Engineers as the primary agency for planning, preparedness and response under the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3, Public Works and Engineering. Each Corps office develops plans based on hazards unique to their area, coordinates with appropriate agencies and identifies response teams to support the assigned missions in the National Response Framework.

Type of Assistance Provided by ESF #3, Public Works and Engineering:

- Technical advice and evaluations
- Engineering services
- Construction management and inspection
- Contingency contracting
- Emergency repair of wastewater and solid waste facilities
- Real estate support

Some of the activities within the scope of ESF #3 include: emergency clearance of debris, restoration of critical public services and facilities, temporary restoration of water supply systems, technical assistance, structural evaluation of buildings, damage assessments, temporary housing, temporary roofing, emergency power, ice and bottled water.

How to Obtain Additional Information:

For additional information on ESF #3 and the Corps' roles in a Federal response, contact the Buffalo District Emergency Management Office. See phone numbers on page 16.



Advance Measures

Advance measures, in response to predicted flooding, consist of those activities performed to protect against the loss of life and damage to improved property. There must be an imminent threat of flooding present before Advance Measures can be considered. The threat must be of a nature that if action is not taken immediately, damages will be incurred.

On the Great Lakes, an imminent flood threat period exists when record, or near record, lake levels occur. The high lake levels in combination with the lake storm seasons can result in significant flood damage to the shoreline communities. Lake levels can remain high for 2-3 years and revetments built along the shoreline must be strong enough to withstand the ravages of storm induced wave action. Due to the massive size of these structures and to the cyclical nature of the lake storm seasons, waivers are often granted to allow the structure to remain in place. The waiver requires the local sponsor to maintain and upgrade the flood risk management structure, to provide long-term flood damage protection.

Types of Assistance Provided by the Corps

- Strengthening of Federal and non-Federal flood risk management structures
- Construction of temporary levees to protect life and improved property. Removal of these structures is a local responsibility
- Channel clearance and dredging of Federal projects to restore original design capacity
- Relieving threat of flooding from possible dam failures by dewatering the impoundment, controlled breaching or strengthening of the structure
- Providing non-structural alternatives

Criteria for Corps Assistance

- An imminent threat of unusual flooding must exist and be established by National Weather Service forecasts or by the Corps
- A written request by the Governor of the state for Corps assistance is required
- The proposed project must be technically feasible and economically justified
- Advance Measures assistance will be in support of State and local on-going or planned efforts. Non-Federal interests must commit all available resources, enter into a Local Cooperation Agreement and contribute to the cost of doing the work

How to Obtain Help

Contact your local political representatives, so they may inform the State Governor's Office. The Governor must ask the Corps to provide assistance.



Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, has a broad set of missions and capabilities. One of its missions is to provide assistance, within its authorities, when natural disasters or other emergencies occur.

Emergency preparedness and response is primarily a State and local responsibility. In instances when the nature of the disaster exceeds the capabilities of State and local interests, however, the Corps of Engineers may provide help to save human life, reduce immediate human suffering and/or mitigate property damage.

The Buffalo District gives emergency assistance top priority and provides immediate response using every resource and expedited procedure available. Assistance is limited to the preservation of life and the protection of residential and commercial developments, to include public and private facilities that provide public services. Exclusive assistance to individual homeowners and businesses, including agricultural businesses, is not authorized. During periods of extreme drought however, such assistance may be provided to farmers under certain circumstances. Rehabilitation assistance may also be available to public sponsors for eligible flood risk management structures.

The Corps is divided into Divisions; which are then subdivided into Districts by drainage basins. The Buffalo District is a subdivision of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. The Buffalo District is responsible for the lower Great Lakes, Erie and Ontario, and the water basins that drain into these lakes; including the Finger Lakes. Personnel are assigned to various offices scattered throughout the District. During disasters, personnel in any locale may assist in response and recovery work.

The Buffalo District has an Emergency Management Office that is responsible for maintaining a cadre of trained specialists and provides a single point of contact for all Corps of Engineers' emergency activities.

You are encouraged to contact the Buffalo District for specific information concerning the Corps' programs and to accomplish joint planning, training and information exchange.

The Buffalo District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Buffalo District
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mt. Morris Dam
Mt. Morris, NY 14510-9506

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Cleveland Area Office
Foot of E. 9th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1003

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Toledo Area Office
3900 Summit Street
Toledo, Ohio 43611-5003

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Orwell Area Office
33 Grand Valley Ave.
Orwell, Ohio 44076

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Field Office
Unit D
240 Lake Street
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Auburn Field Office
7413 County House Road
Auburn, NY 13021



Contaminated Water Assistance

The Corps of Engineers is authorized to provide clean potable water to communities with contaminated water supplies, that represent a substantial threat to the public health and welfare. Contamination may have resulted from deliberate, accidental or natural events, including flooding.

Types of Assistance Provided by the Corps

- Water tank trucks to haul water from a safe source to the point established for local distribution
- Procurement and distribution of bottled water
- Temporary connection of a new supply to the existing distribution system
- Installation of a temporary filtration system
- Mobile military purification units

Criteria for Corps of Engineers Assistance

- Written request from the Governor or his authorized representative
- State and local governments must fully utilize their own resources, including National Guard capabilities

Duration of Assistance

The Corps' assistance normally will be temporary to meet the immediate threat. Assistance is limited to 30 days, or until the Federal Emergency Management Agency undertakes the provision of emergency water under its own authorities; whichever occurs first.

How to Obtain Help

Contact your local political representatives, so they may inform the State Governor's Office. The Governor must ask the Corps to provide assistance.



Emergency Water

The Corps of Engineers, within specific guidelines, is authorized to provide emergency water assistance to any community confronted with water supply problems associated with drought conditions or a contaminated source; but only if there is a substantial threat to the health and welfare of the public in the area.

Drought Assistance

The intent of the emergency water supply program is to provide assistance to meet minimum public health, safety and welfare requirements. Evaluations of requests are to be tempered by the fact that Corps assistance is temporary and supplemental to State and local efforts. Long-term solutions to water supply problems remain the responsibility of State and local interests.

Types of Assistance Provided by the Corps

- Transportation of water by vehicles, small diameter pipelines or other means for human consumption and with certain restrictions, consumption by livestock
- Construction of wells

Criteria for Corps Assistance

- Written request from the Governor or his authorized representative
- The area is drought distressed and found to have an inadequate water supply which is causing, or is likely to cause, a substantial threat to the health and welfare of the public in the area

State and/or local interest should have:

1. A drought emergency declaration from the State or other appropriate authority
2. Utilized all available State and local resources to include funds, man-power and equipment such as National Guard trucks to haul water
3. Instituted mandatory water conservation measures
4. Prioritized use of available water: human consumption and sanitary needs take priority over livestock consumption, industrial processes and irrigation of crops
5. Established minimum requirements for public health and welfare
6. Initiated a long-term solution



Disaster Preparedness

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is prepared to provide immediate and effective response and assistance during emergencies and disasters. The preparedness program includes an emergency management planning and training organization, an inspection program for non-Federal flood risk management structures, and the ability to maintain adequate supplies, tools and equipment.

Types of Assistance Provided by the Corps

- Participation in emergency seminars and exercises when requested by State or local officials.
- Inspection of flood risk management works, constructed or repaired by the Corps of Engineers and operated by local sponsors.
- Technical assistance for the development of plans at the State and local level.
- Upon request, inspection of non-Federal dams and flood risk management projects and structures.

Corps of Engineers Assistance

State and local governments are responsible for emergency response, including training and stockpiling of flood fighting supplies and materials. The Buffalo District will supplement the efforts of the State and local authorities during an emergency.

How to Obtain Help

Contact the Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, Emergency Management Office. See page 16 for phone numbers.



Flood Response

The Corps of Engineers may provide assistance as authorized by Public Law 84-99 for flood response and post flood response activities to save lives and protect improved property (i.e. public facilities/services and residential/commercial developments) during or following a flood or coastal storm. All assistance is provided through local and State governmental authorities. Direct assistance to an individual homeowner or business is not permitted. This includes agricultural lands.

Emergency assistance will be undertaken to supplement State and local efforts. Non-Federal interests must commit all available resources. This includes manpower, supplies, equipment, funds, etc.

Flood fighting measures are applicable to flood risk management structures or other areas that provide public service, regardless of whether it is Federal, public or private.

The Corps has no authority under Public Law 84-99 to reimburse local entities for the costs of their own emergency activities.



Types of Assistance Provided by the Corps

- Assist in rescue operations
- Furnish technical advice and assistance
- Provide emergency repairs to levees and other flood risk management projects
- Furnish materials such as sandbags, polyethylene sheeting, lumber, pumps or rock for stabilization; when the District is actively participating in a flood fight
- If the District is not actively participating in a flood fight, Federal government supplies may be furnished only if local resources are exhausted or will be exhausted. Under such circumstances, the supplies furnished by the District will be replaced in kind or paid for by local interests. All unused stock should be returned to the Federal government.

Rehabilitation Program

The Corps may rehabilitate (1) flood risk management structures damaged or destroyed by floods and (2) Federally authorized and constructed hurricane or shore protection structures damaged or destroyed by wind, wave or water action of other than an ordinary nature.

Type of Assistance

The repair or restoration of a flood risk management structure to its as-designed condition.



Criteria for Corps of Engineers Assistance

- The project is currently listed in an Active/Satisfactory status in the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP).
- Requests for rehabilitation assistance must be for a publicly sponsored project
- Rehabilitation projects for non-Federal flood risk management works will be cost shared with the public sponsor
- The proposed rehabilitation project must have a favorable benefit-cost ratio; i.e. the savings to be realized by the project must exceed its cost
- Pre-existing maintenance deficiencies will be repaired at the expense of the local sponsor
- In addition, Corps' policy requires local interests to enter into a written agreement to furnish the following items of cooperation and assurances prior to the undertaking of any work:
 1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, relocations and rights-of-way
 2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the work, exclusive of damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractor
 3. After completion of the project, maintain and operate, in a manner satisfactory to the Chief of Engineers.

How to Obtain Help

Contact the Buffalo District Emergency Management Office directly. See page 16 for phone numbers.

Dam Safety Program

The Corps is responsible for ensuring public safety by maintaining a sound and dependable dam safety program. The Buffalo District has a Dam Safety Committee, which meets semi-annually and is responsible for the following:

- Ensuring that the organizational staff of qualified technical personnel is sufficient for program implementation
- Establishing a public awareness program with information at each project and coordination with downstream local interests
- Monitoring and evaluating the performance of all dams and appurtenant structures and recommending remedial action when necessary
- Establishing the priority of dam safety related work
- Conducting dam safety training for the technical staff and project operation and maintenance personnel
- Ensuring that each dam has an adequate surveillance plan and emergency action plan
- Coordinating with local and State dam safety officials

Additionally, the Corps provides State and local officials with survey reports, design memoranda, plans and specifications and other information. State officials can request to attend periodic inspections as observers and inspection reports will be furnished to State officials.

For more information contact the Buffalo District Dam Safety Officer, whose number is listed in this booklet on page 16.



Duration of Assistance

The Corps' assistance terminates when the emergency is over or when the flood waters have receded to bankfull.

How to Obtain Help

Contact your local officials who in turn will contact the State Office of Emergency Management and if required, the State will contact the Corps of Engineers.

Ice Jam Assistance

Ice jams are a very common occurrence throughout the Buffalo District. Fortunately, only a few result in serious flooding. There are two types of ice jams where the District can lend assistance. The first type is an ice jam near the shoreline. The Corps, in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard, can evaluate the severity of the threat, the effectiveness of ice breaking operations, the availability of ice breaking equipment and the accessibility to the jam site by the ice breakers. The Coast Guard is the lead agency on these missions.

The other type of ice jam occurs inland, in streams and rivers. The Corps assistance during this type of ice jam, is generally limited to providing technical assistance and Federal government furnished materials to the local officials.

In addition, the Corps will undertake authorized flood protection measures to mitigate the damage from flooding caused by any ice jam.



How to Obtain Help

Contact the Buffalo District Emergency Management Office and at that point an assessment will be made of the situation; to determine exactly what resources are appropriate. The Buffalo District will coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard when necessary. For contact information please refer to page 16.



Post Flood Response

Authority to perform post flood activities immediately after a flood or coastal storm is provided by Public Law 84-99, as amended. Corps assistance must be required immediately and is limited to major flooding or coastal storm disasters resulting in life-threatening or significant property damaging situations.

Types of Assistance Provided by the Corps

- Furnish technical advice and assistance
- Clearance of drainage channels
- Clearance of blockages from critical water supply intakes and sewer outfalls
- Debris clearance to reopen vital transportation routes
- Temporary restoration of critical public services or facilities
- Identify hazard mitigation opportunities



Duration of Assistance

Corps assistance is provided for a maximum of 10 days from the date of the Governor's written request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Criteria for Corps Assistance

- Assistance must be supplemental to State and local efforts
- A written request from the Governor or his authorized representative for flood response activities is required
- Local interests must enter into a written agreement to furnish the following items of cooperation and assurances prior to the undertaking of any work:
 1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-way;
 2. Hold and save the United States free of damages due to authorized work, exclusive of damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States;
 3. Operate and maintain the emergency work or remove temporary work constructed by the Corps after the emergency

- The Corps must already be involved in ongoing flood fight operations
- The Governor must be seeking a Presidential Disaster Declaration from DHS/FEMA

How to Obtain Help

Contact your local officials who in turn will contact the State Office of Emergency Management and if required, the State will contact the Corps of Engineers.

Non-Flood Event Response



Under DoD Directive 3025.1, the Buffalo District Commander, at his discretion, may employ existing District assets in response to non-flood emergencies.

Type of Assistance Provided by the Corps

Emergency relief efforts may include technical support for debris clearance, damage assessment, rescue operations and emergency communications.

Criteria for Corps Assistance

- Assistance provided must be life saving
- Assistance is limited to the District's current resources

How to Obtain Help

Contact the Buffalo District, Emergency Management Office directly. See page 16 for phone numbers.