Our Role in Emergency Management

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, often receives inquiries from individuals about assisting the public, but few know what type of assistance the Corps can provide and how to actually obtain assistance. This document summarizes the type of assistance we can provide.

Do you or your group need assistance?

Have you sought help from your Local, County, State Governments?

NO
Contact Local, County, State for help first and check with USACE Regulatory Office for permits for work in waters, (e.g. lakes, bays, rivers, streams, etc.)

YES
Which Phase Are You In?

PREPAREDNESS
Develop emergency response plans, training & exercises.

REQUEST ASSISTANCE from Planning Office through Planning Assistance to the States and Indian nations (PAS) for large public projects, or Regulatory Office to seek a permit for privately funded projects.

MITIGATION
A good time to perform hazard & vulnerability assessments and/or improve infrastructure.

REQUEST ASSISTANCE from Planning Office through PAS or Continuing Authority Program (CAP).

RESPONSE
Responding to emergency events to provide life safety, incident stabilization, property preservation, evacuation & shelters, and providing mass care.

REQUEST ASSISTANCE from Emergency Management Office through State and contact Regulatory Office for private projects proposing work in waters.

RECOVERY
Working towards economic recovery, debris management, housing concerns, health & social services.

REQUEST ASSISTANCE under PL 84-99 from Emergency Management Office Request must come from the State.

Emergency Management Office

During response operations, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, Emergency Management Office conducts emergency operations to save lives and protect improved properties (i.e. public facilities/services and residential/commercial developments) in accordance with Public Law (PL) 84-99. PL 84-99 assistance includes providing technical support and direct support during flood operations.

Under technical support, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, Emergency Management Office can deploy subject matter experts to the affected area to provide guidance on flood fight techniques, inspect existing flood protection projects and recommend corrective measures. Under direct assistance, materials can be provided, to include sandbags and plastic sheeting to supplement local and state supplies should they become exhausted in order to protect Critical Public Facilities.

Assistance is supplemental to local and State efforts and normally at the request of the State’s governor. To find out more about the Detroit District Emergency Management Office, visit our Website at: www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Emergency-Operations
Planning Office

The Corps of Engineers has authority under Section 206 of the 1960 Flood Control Act (PL 86-645), Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS), to provide technical and planning assistance for flood plain management planning. Typical studies include flood plain delineation, flood hazard evaluation, flood warning/preparedness, flood damage reduction, storm water management, flood proofing studies and others. Costs under FPMS are 100% Federal.

Under Section 22 of the 1974 Water Resources Development Act, the Corps of Engineers has authority to provide PAS. The program is used to prepare plans to manage water and related land resources. Types of work that can be done include comprehensive planning, water quality studies, floodplain management studies and other water resources planning investigations. Costs are shared 50% federal and 50% non-federal basis.

In addition to these planning authorities, the Corps of Engineers has authority under the CAP to construct small projects such as water resources, flood-risk mitigation, and environmental restoration within specific federal funding limits. The total cost of a project is shared among the federal government and a non-federal sponsor(s).

Non-federal sponsor requests for assistance should be in the form of a letter describing the location and nature of the problem and requesting assistance under the program. Find sample letters and specifics under CAP on our website at: www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Technical-Planning-Assistance

Water Levels

The Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology (H&H) Office forecasts and monitors water levels of the Great Lakes and the conditions that lead to water level fluctuations. In addition, staff from H&H advises the International Joint Commission on the regulation of Lake Superior outflow and performs flow measurements on and modeling of the connecting channels of the Great Lakes. For water level information visit: www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/Great-Lakes-Information.aspx.

The USACE, Detroit District’s Great Lakes coastal program encompasses the entire U.S. shores of lakes Superior and Huron, the shore of Lake Michigan with the exception of the Illinois shoreline, and the western portion of Lake Erie. The Great Lakes coastal program is part of the Detroit District’s Great Lakes H&H Office, working to provide thorough and precise analysis on all hydraulic, hydrologic and coastal matters pertaining to the Great Lakes. Utilizing a vast degree of resources and knowledge, the Detroit District’s Great Lakes coastal program provides cutting edge solutions to challenging problems.