



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Charleston District

News Release

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Corps of Engineers to respond to Hurricane Charley

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Charleston, S.C. -- The Charleston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is preparing to provide emergency support to areas affected by Hurricane Charley. Although the storm's ultimate direction and strength are still unknown at this time, meteorological models predict a path across Florida and causing some affect to coastal South Carolina.

"We are prepared to provide emergency assistance to the State of South Carolina and our region, if called upon by the Federal Emergency Management Agency," said Charleston District Commander Alvin B. Lee.

The Charleston District has activated its 24-hour Emergency Operations Center and has sent a liaison to the S.C. State Emergency Management Division Emergency Operations Center.

Officials at the Charleston District have already deployed an emergency ice teams to Jacksonville and Tallahassee to support the recovery mission in the State of Florida. The district holds the Corps' South Atlantic Region contract to procure critical supplies of ice for those in need in support of FEMA's request.

"Although we hope not to receive the full force of the strong storm," said Lt. Col. Lee, "we are prepared if we are impacted by Hurricane Charley."

The District has Rapid Needs Assessment and Flood Response teams on standby, and is maintaining close coordination with the Corps' Regional Office in Atlanta awaiting instruction from FEMA.

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Hurricane

When a major disaster occurs anywhere in the United States, the Corps of Engineers becomes one of the agencies called upon to help clean up and restore devastated areas.

Under the Federal Response Plan, the Corps is the primary agency for the Emergency Support Function (ESF#3) Public Works and Engineering. The Corps' main roles under the plan include emergency clearance of debris, emergency power restoration, temporary supply of potable water and ice, temporary restoration of water-supply systems, temporary roofing, temporary housing, structural evaluation of buildings, damage assessment, and technical assistance.

The Corps of Engineers has teams on standby throughout the region and the Nation to respond to federally-declared national emergencies.

During Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the Charleston District set up an Emergency Response and Recovery Organization (ERRO) in South Carolina, consisting of more than 80 Corps of Engineers employees, to provide debris removal and technical assistance to the State of South Carolina.