



Marine Safety Information Bulletin # 07-19

This bulletin is used purely for informational purposes to assist the maritime community within the Sector Upper Mississippi River Area of Responsibility. Its purpose is to advise relevant parties of emerging information & situations that may impact our Marine Transportation System as well as facilitates cooperation among the involved parties regarding actions that we may be taking and/or that you may need to employ in the interest of safety/security.

Upper Mississippi River High Water – River Closure

Update 1: This bulletin is in effect from June 4, 2019 until cancelled by the Captain of the Port.

Commercial and recreational operators are advised that the Upper Mississippi River from the MacArthur Bridge (mile marker 179.0) in St. Louis south to the Chester Bridge (mile marker 109.9) in Chester, IL will close to all vessel traffic when the St. Louis gauge is above 45.0 ft. Closures are enforced due to existing hazards such as drift and high water. Additionally, passing vessels may cause overtopping of or damage to flood control levees. Closures will remain in effect until water levels decrease to a safe condition as determined by the Captain of the Port (COTP) in consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Unless on-scene conditions dictate otherwise, this portion of the river will reopen to vessel traffic when the St. Louis gauge recovers below 45.0 ft. Gauge readings can be obtained from <https://water.weather.gov>.

During the closure, some vessels may be allowed to operate within the zone with permission from the COTP. These movements and the process for requesting to move within the zone are outlined in the following table.

Area	Conditions for Movement
<p>MacArthur Bridge (MM 179.0) to Jefferson Barracks Bridge (MM 168.6)</p>	<p>Vessels being used to monitor the safety of barge fleets are given pre-approved permission to move light boat within the closure zone while operating within that capacity. Vessels must minimize wake to the maximum extent and favor the center of the channel. Additionally, vessels used to service crew needs (i.e. crew changes, resupply, taking on potable water, etc.) within the closure zone. No check-in or check-out with the Sector Command Center will be required for either of these operations. If needing to shift a barge, the criteria below becomes effective and permission will be required from the COTP’s representative before doing so.</p> <p>If the request to move within the zone meets the following criteria, the COTP’s representative may give permission for the movement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Shifting only one barge at a time; 2) Shifting is occurring during daylight hours only; and

<p>MacArthur Bridge (MM 179.0) to Jefferson Barracks Bridge (MM 168.6) Continued</p>	<p>3) The movement is intended to monitor or increase waterway or port safety.</p> <p>If permission is granted, the vessel operator will be required to notify the Sector Command Center when the vessel begins and ends their movement within the closure zone.</p> <p>All other entry into the zone will be considered. Operators may request permission to move within the closure zone on a case-by-case basis from the COTP's representative.</p> <p>The COTP's representative may be contacted through the Sector Upper Mississippi River Command Center, via VHF CH. 16 or (314) 269-2332. All requests must be submitted at least 30 minutes prior to intended movement.</p>
<p>Jefferson Barracks Bridge (MM 168.6) to Chester Bridge (MM 109.9)</p>	<p>Vessel Operators may request permission to move within the closure zone on a case-by-case basis. In order for vessels to move within the closure zone, they must obtain permission from the COTP's representative through the Sector Upper Mississippi River Command Center, via VHF CH. 16 or (314) 269-2332. All requests must be submitted at least 30 minutes prior to intended movement.</p>

To receive the latest information on this high water event, monitor marine VHF channels 14 and 16 or the Upper Mississippi River Port Directory at [https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/upper-mississippi-river-\(st-louis\)](https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/upper-mississippi-river-(st-louis)). Notifications of hazardous conditions or marine casualties should be made to the Sector Upper Mississippi River Command Center at 314-269-2332 or 314-269-2463. This number is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.


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By direction