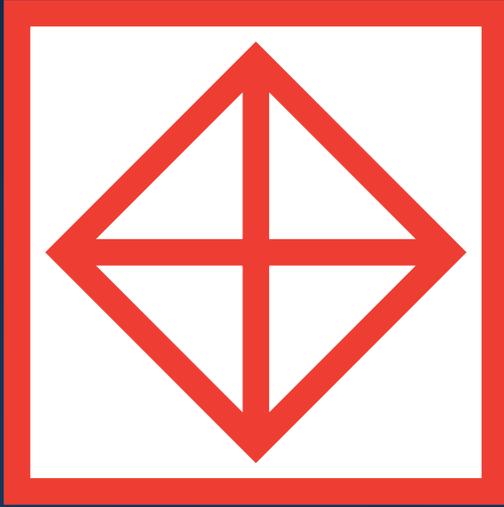


Lock and Dam Safety

The locks and dams operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along the river represent a special danger to uninformed or careless boaters.



BOATS KEEP OUT

U.S. Coast Guard Daymark



Wear your

**PERSONAL
FLOTATION
DEVICE**

It floats; you don't.

**US Army Corps of Engineers
Public Affairs Office**
(651) 290-5200

For full-color **navigation charts**:
Mississippi River Visitor Center
(309) 794-5338
To download charts or the order form, go to
the "navigation" section on the St. Paul District
website: www.mvp.usace.army.mil



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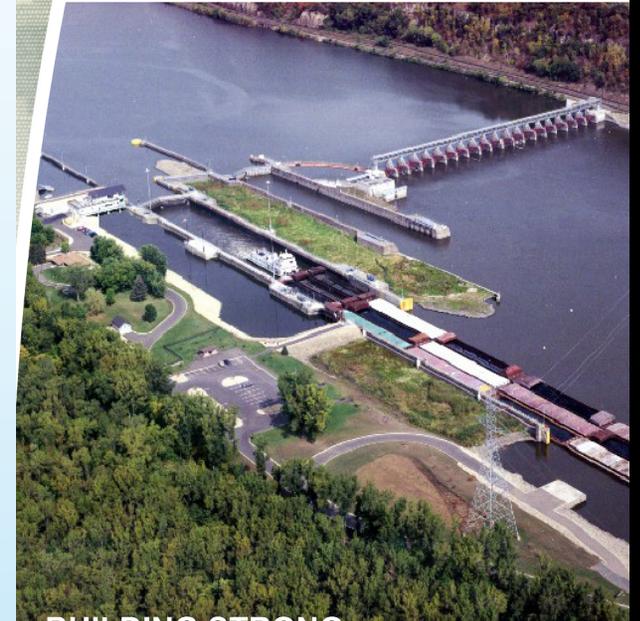
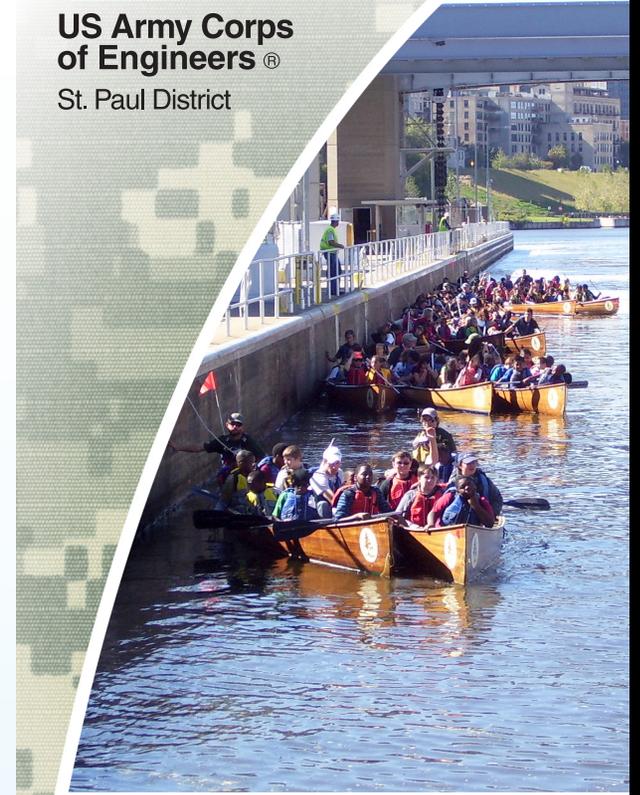
The marking of the restricted areas conforms to the U.S. Coast Guard's Aids to Navigation System. The system is designed for use with navigation charts. U.S. Code of Federal Regulations 33 CFR 62 states that navigators should maintain and consult suitable publications as needed for safe boating.



CEMVP 25-1-37 REV.03.14

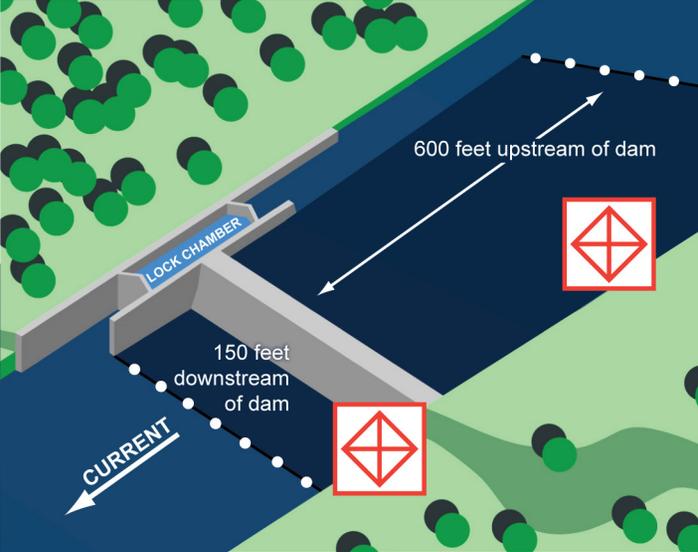
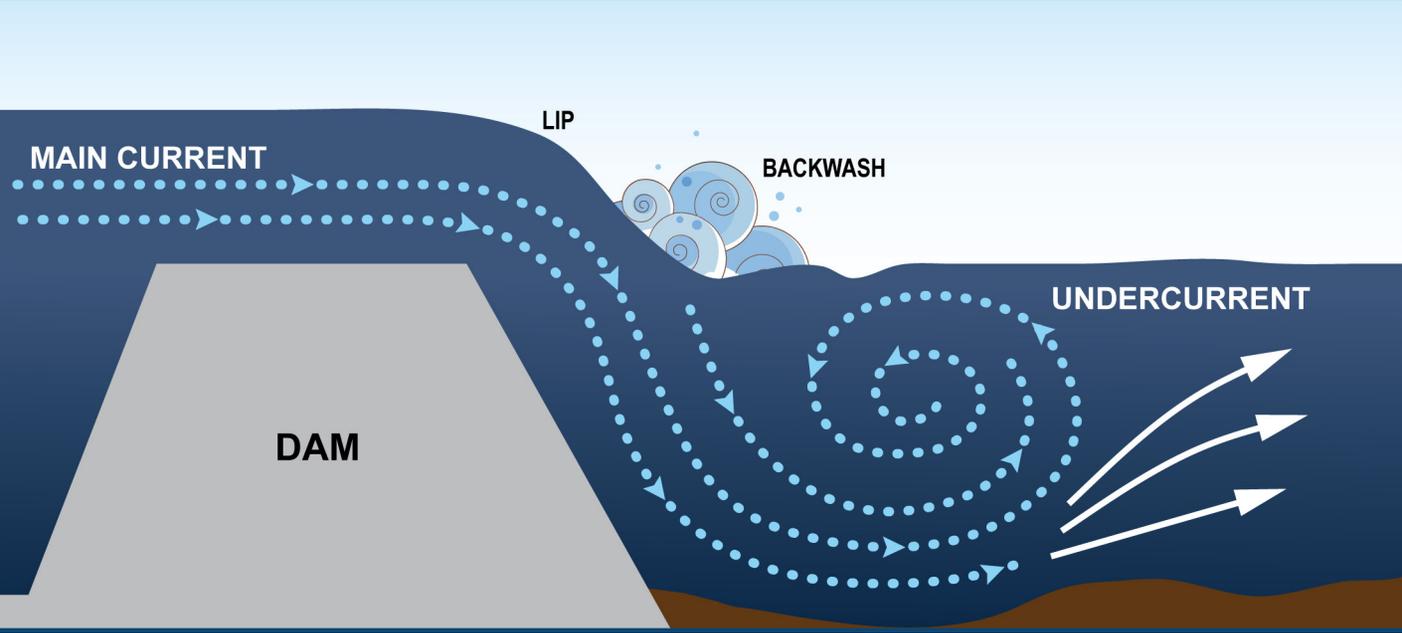


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BUILDING STRONG®

LOCK AND DAM SAFETY



Above: typical RESTRICTED AREAS at locks and dams

Deceptive Currents

The water surface near a lock and dam facility may appear calm, but strong and deceptive currents, powerful undertows, violent churning and eddies lie beneath the surface. These currents are powerful enough to drag a boat and its occupants to the bottom of the river.

Downstream currents are particularly deceptive. These currents actually reverse direction and flow back toward the dam. Boats can be pulled into the dam gates by the back currents and capsize. A number of drownings have occurred over the years that could have been avoided.

Safety Guidelines

When traveling near or through a lock and dam on the Mississippi River, follow these safety guidelines:

- Obey all signs and buoys. Posted strategically in the area, the signs warn of undercurrents and other dangerous conditions.
- Do not enter the restricted areas immediately above and below the dam (see panel at right).

- Observe all lock traffic signals. Red means to stand clear: do not approach. Amber or yellow means to approach the lock slowly and fully under control. Green means to enter the lock chamber.
- Because commercial and recreational vessels use the same waterways, the river can become crowded. Be alert and use common sense. Be courteous and respect the rights of other boaters.

Be informed and be safe!

Restricted Areas

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers restricts areas to protect boaters in the vicinity of locks and dams (see illustration above). These areas are:

-  A large area immediately upstream of the dam, usually 600 feet. Strong, unseen currents can pull boats into the dam.
-  A smaller area immediately downstream of the dam, usually 150 feet. Dangerous undercurrents and turbulence make the downstream restricted area extremely dangerous.

Restricted areas are marked by danger signs and are strictly off-limits to all boaters. Violators are subject to a citation and a fine.

