



### Levee

A levee is an earthen embankment, floodwall or structure along a water course whose purpose is flood risk reduction or water conveyance.

### Corps Authority

There is no single agency with responsibility for levee oversight nationwide. The Corps has specific or limited authorities for approximately 14,000 miles of levees nationwide.

### Local Responsibility

The responsibilities of local levee partners are broad and include levee safety; land use planning and development; building codes and operations, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and replacement of the levee.

### Levee Accreditation

The accreditation of levees for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program is the responsibility of the local levee owner or sponsor.

### Types of Levees

- **Federally Owned and Operated Levee: Federally Authorized Levee:** The Corps maintains these levees.
- **Federally Authorized Levee:** Designed and built by the Corps, then turned over to a local sponsor to operate, maintain, repair, rehabilitate and replace the levee.
- **Non-federally Authorized Levee:** Designed and built by a non-federal agency, which is responsible for the operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and replacement of the levee.
- **Private or Corporate-Owned Levee:** The Corps has no responsibility for private or corporate-owned levees unless a request is made to be included in the PL 84-99 program. To be eligible for this program, there must be a public governing project sponsor.

## **Overtopping**

Water levels exceed the crest elevation of a levee and flow into protected areas. A levee may be damaged but not compromised. Flooding occurs from water overflowing a levee and/or overwashing the levee with waves. The levee must be inspected.

## **Overtopping Breach**

A breach whose cause is known to be a result of overtopping (system exceeded). The levee has been compromised after overtopping and must be repaired to function prior to the next event.

## **Breach**

A rupture, break or gap in a levee system whose cause has not been determined.

## **Failure Breach**

A breach in a levee system for which a cause of failure is both known and occurred without overtopping. Usually requires an investigation to determine the cause.