



# News Release

## US Army Corps of Engineers

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*For immediate release*

### **Earthquake Evacuation Procedures**

**MANHATTAN, KAN.** – In the next few days, Manhattan-area residents who live or work downstream of the Tuttle Creek Dam will find a booklet in their mail box describing evacuation procedures should an earthquake occur which causes a problem with the dam. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is again this year mailing the booklet to residents in all postal zones within the downstream evacuation area.

Although the chances of an earthquake large enough to damage the dam are small, the Corps created a warning system to help protect the local community. This system will be in place while the Corps strengthens the dam to meet current dam safety standards for earthquake effects. The booklet is designed to make area residents aware of the importance of safe evacuation routes and procedures in the event of an earthquake and subsequent failure of the dam. The booklet was originally distributed in 2005 and will go out every year until the current dam stabilization project is complete.

The booklet provides evacuation guidance to people below the dam if an earthquake threatens the dam and leads to activation of the siren/voice alert warning system. The sirens are tested each month in conjunction with Riley County's testing of the community tornado siren network. These tests take place starting at 10:25 a.m. on the first Monday of each month.

The evacuation booklet shows street by street detail in the area that has been designated as an evacuation zone in the event of dam failure. It explains the evacuation procedure and provides maps of nine evacuation subzones within the larger evacuation zone, as well as examples of gathering places outside the zone where evacuees can go.

The booklet encourages families and businesses to create their own evacuation plans that take them to safe areas outside the evacuation zone.

The Corps of Engineers' construction project to stabilize the Tuttle Creek Dam began in 2005. The effort was modified in late 2006 when new data and computer models showed that the sands beneath the dam were not as vulnerable to earthquake shaking as originally thought. Because of the new data and new construction technology developed at the project, the Corps is able to reduce the cost and duration of work by eliminating the planned stabilization work beneath the dam's upstream slope. Construction to stabilize the downstream side of the dam is still necessary and is underway. All aspects of the project, including spillway modifications that will start this winter, are expected to be completed by 2010.

To receive a copy of the evacuation booklet and/or a poster summarizing the evacuation procedures you can stop by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office at Tuttle Creek Lake, 5020 Tuttle Creek Blvd. in Manhattan. Telephone: 758-539-8511 or you can contact Bill Empson, the construction Project Manager at 816-389-3556 or [william.b.empson@usace.army.mil](mailto:william.b.empson@usace.army.mil). Information about the Tuttle Creek Dam Failure Warning system and evacuation booklet download is also available at the Corps' website:  
<http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/tcdam/index.htm>

For the past 100 years, the Kansas City District has been providing flood damage reduction and related support to the heartland. For more information, call the Kansas City District Public Affairs Office at (816) 389-3486. [www.nwk.usace.army.mil](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil)

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