

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HIGH WATER SAFETY ADVISORY: **VTS Measure at MM 219 to MM 229 AHP LMR (25' and rising)**

As a result of the Baton Rouge gauge reading 25' and predicted to rise, a U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Measure is being established in accordance with the Navigation Safety Regulations, Code of Federal Regulations Title 33, Subpart 161.11, for all waters of the Lower Mississippi River from Mile 219 Above Head of Passes (AHP), to Mile 229 AHP. This VTS Measure is needed to protect persons and vessels from the potential safety hazards associated with the effects of high river. This Measure is effective March 15, 2017 at 1600 (CDT) with the following provisions.

Port Allen Lock LMR MM 219-229:

1. All tows greater than 600' (excluding the towboat) are recommended to employ an assist vessel of at least 1200 hp when entering and exiting the Port Allen Lock.
2. All other Canal Tows exiting the Port Allen Lock intending to directly head northbound are recommended to use an assist vessel. All other tows should proceed southbound and then top around at or below MM 221 prior to heading north.
3. Companies should consider staffing vessels with the most experienced crews.
4. Towing vessels are recommended to catch a headline when entering the Port Allen Lock.
5. Vessels will be put on queue for lock turn when their tow is built and may remain in the area in which their tow was built until it is time for lock turn.

For further information, contact the following:

Vessel Traffic Center Lower Mississippi River: (504) 365-2230 (24 HR), VHF-FM CH 05A
Coast Guard Baton Rouge Waterways Management: (225) 298-5400 X230
Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Command Center: (504) 365-2200

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