

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HIGH WATER SAFETY ADVISORY: **MM 219 to MM 240 AHP LMR (30' and rising)**

As a result of the Baton Rouge gauge reading 30' and predicted to rise, the Captain of the Port of New Orleans has issued a safety advisory for all waters of the Lower Mississippi River (LMR) from Mile 219 Above Head of Passes (AHP), to Mile 240 AHP. The following are recommendations for the advisory:

Wilkinson Point LMR MM 232-237

1. It is recommended that line-towing companies and tow operators use towing vessels with a horsepower ratio of 240 hp per barge. A maximum of 36 barges per tow is authorized for southbound transit from Wilkinson Point (MM 232 to MM 237 LMR). Empty barges may be calculated at ½ the horsepower requirements to that of a loaded barge when computing the overall horsepower requirement.
2. Towing vessels with 8000 hp are allowed to push a 35 barge tow makeup (400 hp less than requirement stated above).
3. Owner / Operators are reminded to ensure towing vessel inspections are completed before heading southbound through the Highway 190 bridge at Wilkinson Point, as per 33 CFR 165.810(f).
4. Line-towing companies should consider staffing vessels with the most experienced crews.

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.

This Marine Safety Information Bulletin supersedes Volume XVIII, Issue 009 Safety Advisory: MM 219 to MM 229 AHP LMR (25' and rising).

For additional information, contact the following:

Vessel Traffic Center Lower Mississippi River: (504) 365-2230 (24 HR), VHF-FM CH 05A, 11, or 12
Coast Guard Baton Rouge Waterways Management: (225) 298-5400 X230
Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Command Center: (504) 365-2200

CAPTAIN W. R. ARGUIN
Captain of the Port New Orleans

For a current list of MSIBs within the COTP New Orleans Zone visit: <https://homeport.uscg.mil/nola> and look under "Safety and Security"