



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Information and Status Port Arthur/Taylor's Bayou Floodwall Repair

August 10, 2017

What is the current situation? Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 (DD7) notified the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) of a displaced section of floodwall in the ship turning basin near Taylor Bayou on Tuesday August 1, 2017. Further investigation determined that a 30-foot erosion hole had formed at the foundation of the floodwall on the waterside that had destabilized the wall and allowed sections to move and tilt. Approximately 200-250 feet of floodwall has become unstable. It has also added stress to an additional 500-600 feet of floodwall, resulting in small cracks.

The cause of the erosion hole is currently unknown and under investigation. Our main priority right now is to provide a viable temporary repair to the floodwall before we encounter a severe tropical event.

Who and what is at risk for flooding? There are approximately 25,000 people living and working in the area that would be impacted if this portion of the floodwall fails during a major storm including a large portion of Port Arthur and smaller portions of Groves, Port Neches and Nederland.

What is being done about this issue right now?

DD7 has begun repairing the damaged portion of the floodwall. Repairs include stabilizing the existing floodwall by filling in the eroded area with sand and placing rock and large sandbags (called Super Sacks) along the base of the water side of the floodwall. DD7 will also construct a secondary wall made of sheet pile behind the damaged section (estimated wall length is 500 feet). We estimate this temporary repair will take 3-4 weeks to complete.

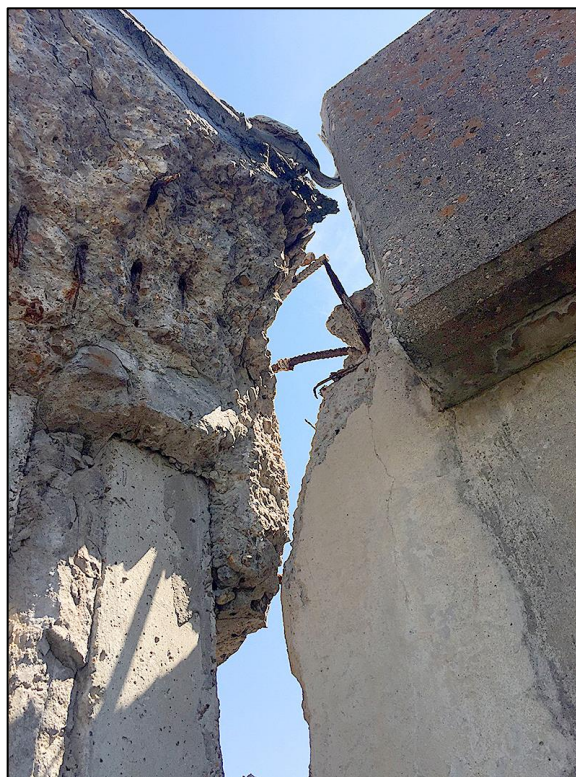
We have shared this information with elected officials, emergency managers and businesses in the potentially impacted areas and are urging them to share information about flood preparedness broadly. The Corps of Engineers, the City of Port Arthur and DD7 are stockpiling additional flood fight supplies should they become necessary.

Will permanent repairs to the floodwall be made? In 2013, the Corps of Engineers, the Texas General Land Office, DD7 and other local entities started working on a study that would result in a federal cost-shared project



to fully replace the existing floodwall in Port Arthur. This large study, called Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay, includes additional coastal storm surge protection for existing projects in Port Arthur and Freeport and a new levee and floodwall system for parts of Orange County. The Corps of Engineers is finalizing the report in preparation to submit to Congress, where it will be voted on for authorization and funding. Should funds be appropriated, construction will take several years to complete. The Corps is working to fast track this process due to the increased risk posed by the current situation.

Are we at increased risk of flooding? We believe the temporary repair will be able to withstand surge and wave action from a small storm, but will likely not be adequate for a major hurricane. Individuals and businesses in the area behind the floodwall will remain at an increased risk of flooding until permanent repairs can be made which is likely to be several years. If a storm approaches, the increased risk may require an evacuation for a lesser storm than typical for this area. We urge individuals and businesses to review their personal and organizational emergency preparedness, review flood insurance policies, and heed any evacuation orders.



Background on the Flood Risk Reduction System: The Port Arthur Hurricane Flood Protection Project (HFPP) is a 35-mile flood risk reduction system that includes 6 miles of floodwall, 13 pump stations and 25 closures (areas in the system that require manual closing in advance of high water or storm events). The HFPP was authorized by Congress, partially paid for with federal funding, constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers between 1966 and 1985, and is operated and maintained by DD7. The HFPP system provides flood risk reduction to a large industrial area, composed predominantly of petrochemical companies, and portions of several residential communities.

For more information about how to prepare for potential flooding, please see www.ready.gov.

For more information about the status of repairs of the floodwall, please see DD7's website at www.dd7.org.