



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Jacksonville District

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Status: Important
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FOR: ALL SOUTH FLORIDA MEDIA OUTLETS

TO: ALL EDITORS, NEWS DIRECTORS, REPORTERS

EVENT: STATUS OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE

WHEN: FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2008

Today, Lake Okeechobee is at elevation 12.52 ft. NGVD and has risen 0.3 ft in the past 24 hours with about a quarter of an inch of rain in the Kissimmee River drainage basin. The lake level rose 1.26 ft during the Tropical Storm Fay event. This raises the lake level to a low normal level. The lake has experienced historic low levels for the last several years due to drought conditions. The average lake elevation based on the period of record, 1965-2006, for today is 14.18 ft.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is operating the St. Lucie Lock and Dam, Ortona Lock and Dam and the W.P Franklin Lock and Dam to promote drainage of local basin runoff. The Corps is not planning any releases at this time from Lake Okeechobee as a result of Tropical Storm Fay.

The Corps has inspected the Herbert Hoover Dike following heavy rainfall in the area and found no significant issues with the dike as a result of the storm.

The lake is expected to rise slowly over the next week to reach a level as high as 13.5 ft by next week. Normally, operating levels for the lake are between 12.5 and 15.5 ft which is a safe range for the Herbert Hoover Dike structure.

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