

Accidental Discovery of Historic Properties or Human Remains
Standard Operating Procedure
Vicksburg Corps, Regulatory Branch

In the event that a previously unknown historic property that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or human remains, unregistered cemeteries, or burial artifacts are discovered during an authorized permitted activity, the permittee shall follow the procedures outlined below:

- 1) Immediately cease all ground disturbing activities in the immediate area of the discovery. Take immediate steps to protect the inadvertent discovery by flagging the area as an exclusion zone. In the case of human remains, at no time shall the remains be allowed to be viewed by the public or removed until the appropriate steps are determined by the Corps Archaeologist.
- 2) Immediately Notify the Vicksburg Corps Regulatory Archaeologist at (601) 631-5298. The Regulatory Archaeologist will contact the State Historic Preservation Officer and concerned Federally Recognized Tribes.
- 3) Notify local law enforcement within 24 hours of the human remains accidental discovery.

Failure to stop work immediately could result in violations of state and federal historic preservation laws (National Historic Preservation Act; Native American Grave and Repatriation Act; Procedures for the Protection of Historic Properties, 33 CFR 325 Appendix C; Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act; Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, EO 13175; Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Treatment of Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects; and any applicable state human remains and burial laws) and the withdrawal of yours Corps issued permit. Violators are subject to civil and criminal penalties.

The Corps will initiate Federal and state coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery process or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the Corps will work with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, any other interested parties, and the permittee to avoid or mitigate the site.