



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# The Sign Post

A newsletter for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sign Program  
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## Welcome to The Sign Post.

By Rick Magee, National Sign Program Manager

The Sign Post begins its second year of providing occasional information about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Sign Program. Please take a few minutes to read this third edition of The Sign Post. This newsletter is brought to you by the National Sign Program Mandatory Center for Expertise (MCX), located in the St. Paul District Office and the National Sign Advisory Work Group (SAWG). The SAWG is composed of representatives from eight Corps divisions, headquarters, and the MCX. Contributions for future newsletters are welcome.

## Day Use Fee Sign Modified.

The ENT-05, day use facility fee sign has been changed to reflect recent changes in the fee program.

Congress changed the fee pass program for federal recreation areas effective in 2007. The Golden Age and Golden Access Passports were discontinued and replaced with new America the Beautiful National Recreation Passes. For reasons known only by Congress and its staff, the Corps of Engineers was not authorized to sell the new passes, but we will honor the Access and Age passes of either the old or new system.



The new ENT-05 has the same panel size as the previous version. See the Sign Manual, section 7, page 7-9 for more details on the format of this new option.

Existing signs in your inventory that read “Golden Age...” will not have changed, only new ENT-05s that you add from the catalog..

# Natural Resources Management Gateway

to the future . . .

## New On the NRM Gateway Sign Program Pages

Have you checked out The Gateway recently? Since the last edition of *The Sign Post* there are several new Good Enough to Share subjects as varied as accessible interpretive signs & exhibits, sign post replacement using metal posts, a water safety template for marking pavement at boat ramps, and a workshop proceedings on sign vandalism and repair. To check these and other topics, go to [www.corpslakes.us/sign](http://www.corpslakes.us/sign) and click on the Good Enough to Share link. Share your ideas on sign management by submitting a GETS or Lessons Learned through the website, or directly to the MCX manager.

## Safety Signs Listed on the NRM Gateway

A comprehensive listing of all safety signs in the Corps of Engineers Sign Program is on the Gateway. From the Project Sign Management page click on the link for “Matrix of all safety related signs.” Text and format for all Danger, Caution, or Warning signs, also known as “safety critical signs” must be approved by HQUSACE upon the recommendation of the Sign Advisory Work Group. Approved safety critical signs are highlighted in the matrix. To apply for a safety critical sign not found in the matrix, click on “Requests for non-standard safety sign approvals” also found on the Project Sign Management page.

## Sign Manual on the NRM Gateway

The easiest way to access the USACE Sign Standards Manual is on the NRM Gateway. The most up to date version will always be a couple of clicks away. The digital version on the Gateway will show any corrections or changes made. There are several links to the manual from the Sign Program pages.

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## On the Road Again with Traffic Signs

Traffic signs are found in Section 9 of the USACE Sign Standards Manual. Our sign standards incorporate the Federal Highway Administration sign standards as found in the latest edition of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). If you need a traffic warning or regulatory sign found in the MUTCD but not in our manual, you may use it. It is important that traffic signs be uniform so that drivers and pedestrians will instantly recognize them.

Note the Corps signs that are exceptions to the MUTCD:

- Approach and roadway directional signs
- Recreation symbols
- Parking and no parking

For these signs, Corps standards apply on Corps property.

For your convenience, the MUTCD is linked from the NRM Gateway, Project Sign Management Pages at

<http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/sign/traffic.html> .



## SignPro Tips

Are you using SignPro? SignPro will help you keep track of your signs, help you order new ones, and provide the inventory that will be the core of your project sign plan. Here are some suggestions for using the software:

- Create locations that correspond with areas in OMBIL. You may have additional locations for non-recreation areas such as powerhouse, administration, locks, etc.
- Inventory – you can sort your signs in inventory by sign number (the default), type, status, spec code, order number, mounting, or height above ground level (HAGL). Just click on the blue word across the top of the sign listing to resort by your preference.
- Inventory – on the sign overview screen be sure to choose the proper sign status for each sign. Choose between non-compliant, on order, proposed, in stock, compliant, and several other selections. SignPro will not default to “compliant,” you must select the appropriate category for each sign.
- Catalog – if you know the sign type of your sign, e.g. ENT-05 or CREDIT, you can enter the type directly into the box directly under the catalog tab near the top of the screen rather than browse through the catalog and subcatalog headings to find your desired sign.
- Orders – when creating orders, use a unique suffix for your project rather than accept the default number. That will help keep your orders from getting mixed up later.
- When changing information on a screen, remember to hit the update button to save your work. Changes are not automatic and will be lost if you change pages without updating.
- Need help? The Corps SignPro User Manual is located on the Gateway at [http://signpro.usace.army.mil/signpro\\_manual.pdf](http://signpro.usace.army.mil/signpro_manual.pdf) or is accessible from the Help drop-down menu within SignPro.

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## Approach Roadway Directional Signs and the Corps Castle

This past December the Director of Civil Works, MG Don T. Riley, was briefed on the status of the National Sign Program. He is particularly interested in the proper use of the Corps of Engineers Signature to identify our facilities. An outcome of this meeting is a recommendation that Project Managers work with their local and state highway officials to place directional signs from nearby state highways directing visitors to Corps recreational facilities.

Directional signs can either meet our Approach Roadway Directional (APRDIR) sign standards or the appropriate state standards. The Corps sign standards are being amended to make the inclusion of the Mark and Signature the standard for *all* new APRDIR signs. If the agency responsible for the Right-of-Way allows us to place APRDIR signs, these signs should show the Corps Communication Mark to signify that the potential visitor is being directed to a Corps facility. Project Managers are encouraged to replace signs older than 7 years, damaged, or non-compliant APRDIR signs as soon as possible with new APRDIR that have the Corps Signature.

If the local highway authority posts the directional signs on the Right-of-Way to the state's standards, and the standards allow use of agency logos, ensure that they are provided with the correct Corps Signature to use on the sign. Whether the sign meets the Corps standards or the state's standards, the Corps Mark & Signature should meet Corps Graphics Standards.

## Fall Protection – A Sign Case Study

Have you been unsure when a Notice sign would be appropriate, or when approval of a new safety sign is necessary? Let's use a sign for fall protection as an example.

There is no sign addressing the use of fall protection equipment in the Corps Sign Standards, nor in the UNICOR catalog of safety messages. Can you place a sign that reads, "Warning/Fall Protection Required"? No, not without getting a new safety sign approved by the SAWG and HQ.

Can you put up a sign like those to the right? Yes, with the approval of your District Sign Program Manager. Notice signs (SNO, top) convey information to control or define access and/or inform of safety requirements, in this case that fall protection must be used. Safety message signs (SAF, bottom) call attention to the general rules or good practices that create a safe workplace. Neither sign type warns of a hazard such as turbulence, bottomless pit, or steep cliff.



Remember, the more words on the sign the less likely it will be read. Could you shorten either of these sample signs and still convey the essential message?

If you feel the need to name the risk, or to use "danger", "caution", or "warning" on your sign then you will need approval from HQ. For example, a sign reading "Bottomless Pit/Fall Protection Required" would appropriately be a Danger sign needing higher approval.



In short, if there is a high risk of death or dismemberment from a hazard use "Danger". If there is a risk from a hazard of breaking something or causing lots of blood, use "Caution". Either of these types of message will need approval of HQUSACE and the SAWG.

For further information on when to use Danger, Caution, Warning, or Notice signs, see the Sign Manual pages 2-14 through 2-16, as well as section 11, Workplace Safety.

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## Success with Signs

Have you a success story to share with your colleagues across the Corps? Perhaps you have found an innovative solution for a management problem using signs. Perhaps you devised an interpretive panel that helped reduce problems at a cultural resource site. Maybe you had a situation where a sign was removed and some other management technique was employed. If you have a sign success story to share, submit it as a "Good Enough To Share" item in the Sign Program Section of the NRM Gateway. It may also appear in a future edition of *The Sign Post*.

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## Up Close and Personal with Jack Johnson of the Sign Advisory Work Group

There are rumors that Jack Johnson may retire soon. Not wanting him to escape into the sunset anonymously we subjected him to the infamous *Sign Post* interview.

*Sign Post*. -- How long have you been with the Corps?

*Jack* - 38 years on 20 April 2008

*Sign Post*. -- Where have you worked for the Corps?

*Jack* - At the Greers Ferry and Russellville Project Offices and in the Little Rock District Office.

*Sign Post*. -- Is it true that you may be retiring soon?

*Jack* - Probably so. I have the papers filled out, but setting that date is so difficult. I want to be certain I have selected wisely. I am told they are too smart to let me back in if I retire before I am really ready.

*Sign Post* - How long have you been involved in the sign program?

*Jack* - I assumed duties as the Little Rock District Sign Manager in 1990.

*Sign Post* - How much do you love the sign manual?

*Jack* - The sign manual has its critics, I am certain; but I believe it is a valuable tool when needing to reference Corps sign standards and previewing examples of what signs are available. If not for this manual, where would this information be available? In SignPro, where else!!

*Sign Post* - What is the funniest or strangest sign you have seen?

*Jack* - The funniest sign, or at least the one that evoked the most humor, was the one from SWD regarding the LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT!! My mind just went wild with all the possibilities related to this sign. I could have written a chapter in the Far Side. "Marge, you and the kids watch for LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT while I grill some burgers!! I hope those mosquitoes don't see us - break out the heavy duty bug spray!! As it turned out, the AIRCRAFT were radio controlled.

*Sign Post* - Tell us about one of the most memorable issues you dealt with on the SAWG.

*Jack* - Not so much an issue, but I was immediately impressed with the sign and materials knowledge at the MCX, and the supporting role played by Debra Stokes and the Sign Advisory Work Group. Corps signage is in great hands. [Editor's note: Unsolicited flattery will get you everywhere!]

*Sign Post* - What is your favorite memory working for the Corps?

*Jack* - To pick one memory as a favorite would be a disservice to all the other favorite moments. Generally speaking, it is all the ways we help people that stands apart as a memory to keep. Some of those memories come in the day to day Corps life, but deployments to disaster recovery are always very vivid. It is a moment to lay aside your petty concerns for those who have lost so much. It is a moment when your individual acts can represent government at its best.



**Sign Post** – What would you like me to share about you?

*Jack* – I have had personal and professional successes that have sustained me and given me encouragement. I believe that the civil works mission of the Corps is significant to Americans. So working together, we accomplish much.

**Sign Post** – What is your favorite music?

*Jack* – Almost all forms except Country Western and Rap - Hip hop. My favorite music for the clarity of its vocals and its precise instrumentation is Latin. That culture takes music seriously!!

**Sign Post** -- What plans have you for life after the Corps?

*Jack* – Take care of my parents. Their contribution to my life cannot be repaid regardless of the best I can do. Manage the family farm. Otherwise, I will drive too fast, sail, motorcycle, and travel while I can.

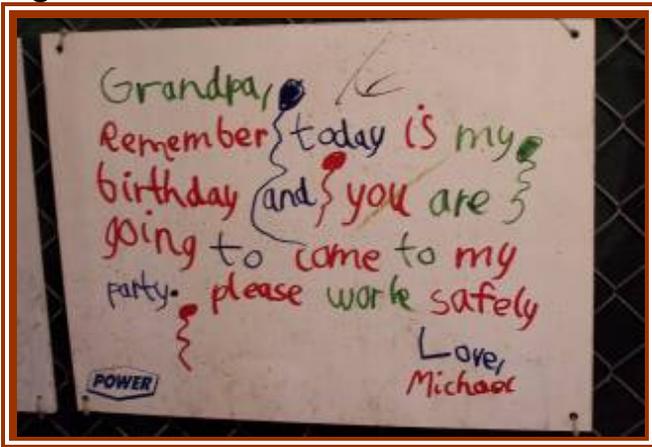


## Regarding Restricted Signs

By Debra Stokes, HQUSACE Sign Program Proponent

A friendly reminder to all sign program managers: We all know that legends for Warning, Caution and Danger signs not in the manual must be approved by HQ. However, we often forget that Restricted sign legends not in the manual must be approved at the district level per Chapter 6.2.b. of EP 1130-2-500.

## Sign Funnies



On the left – a new universal safety sign.  
(Thank you to all who sent these sign pictures.)



On the right – a safety sign request .

Have you seen a funny, bizarre, or just unusual sign? Send your e-photo of it to [The Sign Post](#).

**Contact Information:**

Information on contacting UNICOR or either the Truman Lake (NWK) or Tully Lake (NAE) sign shops is found on the NRM Gateway Project Sign Management website at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/sign/signmgmt.html>

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Contributions to The Sign Post are welcome. Send short articles, ideas, suggestions, or photos that you have taken of unusual signs via your District Sign Program Manager to the National Sign Program MCX.

**Final Thought:**

