

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

The Coast Guard has the responsibility of maritime law enforcement, providing navigational aids to maritime commerce, saving life and property, and for the promotion of small boat safety on navigable waters by virtue of the Federal Boating Act of 1958.

Aids to navigation on the Missouri River are maintained by the Coast Guard during the navigation season from Sioux City to the mouth. The aids include lights, daymarks and unlighted buoys. The daymarks and the buoys have reflectors or reflector material to increase nighttime visibility.

Black can buoys mark the right-hand side of the channel and red nun buoys mark the left-hand side of the channel as observed looking downstream.

Buoys are set to mark the maximum navigation channel available considering channel alignment, the prevailing river stage, and obstructions. They do not appear on these charts since they are moved frequently as channel changes occur.

Buoys should always be given as wide a berth in passing as possible consistent with the length and width of vessel or tow and the width of the bend or crossing.

Buoys should always be used with caution. They may be carried off position by high water, accumulation of drift, or sunk by collision or other causes. When carried off position, destroyed, or removed to prevent loss, buoys are replaced at the earliest opportunity.

Lights and daymarks are shown in approximate locations.

Bridges are lighted for nighttime navigation safety. Piers display the warning red light, while navigable channel spans are marked with a green light.

Mile markers showing channel mileage above the mouth are maintained by the Corps of Engineers. These are large blue sign boards with the mileage indicated in silver figures. Mile markers appear every mile on either the right or left bank, usually on the concave side.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

AS SEEN PROCEEDING DOWNSTREAM

Chart
Symbol

LEFT BANK

NAVIGATION LIGHT
AND DAYMARK
WHITE OR RED LIGHTS
DOUBLE FLASH
EVERY 5 SECONDS



PASSING DAYMARK



CROSSING DAYMARK



MILE BOARD

RIGHT BANK

NAVIGATION LIGHT
AND DAYMARK
WHITE OR GREEN LIGHTS
SINGLE FLASH
EVERY 4 SECONDS

Chart
Sym.



PASSING DAYMARK



CROSSING DAYMARK



MILE BOARD

