



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Fort Worth District**

# News Release

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## **Corps announces Safety and Hazards information on Texas lakes**

*FORT WORTH, Texas* –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District cautions lake users about hazards and removal of exposed archeological or historical artifacts from Texas lakes due to low water levels. Lakes operated by the Fort Worth District contain various objects such as trees, tree stumps, rocks, and submerged islands which can create hazards to lake recreation given the low lake levels and drought conditions.

As water levels continue to drop, potential hazards either become exposed or get closer to the surface. The Corps urges all boaters to exercise caution and be vigilant in watching for these dangers. Never travel at high speeds in areas you are unfamiliar with and if possible, never boat alone. Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Make sure your boat is equipped with all required, properly working safety equipment, especially approved personal flotation devices.

Low lake levels may also expose archeological or historical properties and artifacts; however, the Corps cautions that the destruction or disturbance of archeological properties, including the removal of artifacts, from federal lands, are subject to criminal charges and civil penalties under the provisions of the Archeological Resources Protection Act (16 United States Code 470ee). Similarly, the removal or destruction of any artifact or historic property is subject to a citation and fine under the provisions of 36 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 327.14a. The use of metal detectors is prohibited except on designated beaches or in disturbed areas as identified by the Operations Lake Managers (36 CFR 327.14d). The Corps asks that lake visitors leave artifacts where found and report the location to the lake office.

A list of parks and facilities closed due to low lake levels, construction, seasonal requirements, etc. may be found at <http://www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/drought/DROUGHT.htm>. A list of lakes in the Fort Worth District may be found at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/lakes/index.asp> which you can contact for local information. If you don't have access to the internet, you may call 817-886-1306 for additional information.

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Visit the Fort Worth website at [www.swf.usace.army.mil](http://www.swf.usace.army.mil) .