



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

News Release

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Corps of Engineers closes several boat ramps at Lake O' the Pines as a result of area drought

FORT WORTH, Texas – A lack of rainfall statewide has resulted in Lake O' the Pines reaching its lowest water level since 1958, when the lake was impounded. The low water conditions have resulted in the closure of boat ramps that include Lone Star, Mims Chapel, Pine Hill, Copeland Creek, Lakeside and Shady Grove. The boat ramps that are open at this time are located at Cedar Springs, Alley Creek, Johnson Creek, Hurricane Creek and Overlook Park. Maintenance dredging has been performed at these ramps but Corps of Engineers officials urge extreme caution when launching due to underwater obstructions that could be present. If the lake level continues to fall, additional closures may be necessary.

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 always wear an approved personal flotation device. If possible, never boat alone and always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

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 470 ee). Similarly, the removal or destruction of any artifact or historic property is subject to a citation and fine under the provisions of Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 327.14a. The Corps asks that lake visitors leave artifacts where found and report the location to the lake office.

The use of metal detectors is prohibited except on designated beaches at Lake O' the Pines. Visitors should also know that driving any type of vehicle, including all terrain vehicles and motorcycles, along the shoreline is prohibited and the owner/driver can receive a citation and fine.

To find the most up to date information on park closures and lake conditions, visit <http://www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/> and click on the "Drought/Closure Information" link or call the Project Office at 903-665-2336.

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Visit the Fort Worth website at www.swf.usace.army.mil .