



For Immediate Release

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CLEAR SKIES DON'T GUARANTEE RISK FREE RECREATION

The rain has stopped and flooding is beginning to recede within the Brazos basin. But clearing skies are not the green light to dive back into summer recreation.

Many flood control lakes in the basin have just begun releasing waters held to lessen flooding downstream during the large storm events of the past several weeks. Floodgate releases mean higher than normal river flows, stronger currents in both the river and lakes along with increasing amounts of debris. There have already been several drowning deaths in Texas as a result of post flooding recreational accidents.

"We can't stress strongly enough that conditions on both the lakes and river is hazardous due to large amounts of both submerged and visible debris" said Mike Cox, chief lake ranger at Possum Kingdom Lake. "In addition, strong currents created by increased stream flow and releases from local dams can create conditions where even experienced boaters or swimmers find themselves in trouble."

The Brazos River Authority recommends boaters and swimmers avoid the lakes and river until strong currents and debris have subsided. If you choose to venture out, do not do so without a lifejacket.

In addition to the physical challenges imposed by recent heavy rains comes the increased amount of bacteria in the lakes and rivers as a result of runoff. Elevated levels of bacteria are normally found in flood waters. The Brazos River Authority recommends waiting another week before venturing into the creeks, streams, rivers or lakes.

Officials continue to urge parents to talk with their children about the dangers of playing near creeks and streams and monitor their children if they are playing outside.

Your safety depends on your actions. Be cautious, stay safe.

The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the Authority's 42,000 square-mile territory includes all or part of 70 counties; extending from the Texas-New Mexico border west of Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport.

The Authority built, owns, and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone). In addition to these water supply reservoirs, the Authority contracts with the Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space at eight Federal multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs (Lakes Whitney, Belton, Proctor, Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, Georgetown and Aquilla).

The Brazos River Authority owns and operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton. The Authority also operates wastewater treatment plants for Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System in Round Rock, and the cities of Hutto, Georgetown, Dime Box, Clute-Richwood and Sugar Land.

The Authority owns and operates water treatment systems at Lake Granbury (which supplies potable water to wholesale customers in Hood and Johnson Counties), the City of Taylor and the City of Dime Box. A potable water treatment plant located in Leander is owned jointly by the Lower Colorado River Authority and the Brazos River Authority. The Authority also engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River Basin.

For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.