



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority  
933 E. Court Street, Seguin TX 78155  
www.gbra.org

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## As Independence Day Approaches, GBRA Urges Safety on the Water

### For more information

LaMarriol Smith, GBRA, (830) 379-5822, lsmith@gbra.org

SEGUIN – Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) officials are urging all recreationalists using the Guadalupe, Blanco, Comal or San Marcos rivers, **Canyon Reservoir**, **Coletto Creek Reservoir** (Victoria County), **Lake Dunlap** (Comal and Guadalupe counties), **Lake McQueeney** (Guadalupe County), **Lake Placid** (Guadalupe County), **Lake Nolte** (Guadalupe County), H-4 or **Lake Gonzales** and H-5 or **Lake Wood** (both in Gonzales County) to practice safe boating, tubing and swimming this Independence Day weekend, Friday, July 3 – Sunday, July 5.

“The Memorial Day flood, particularly on the Blanco River, swept a lot of debris, including barbed wire and other fencing materials, down river and into the San Marcos River,” Bill West, Jr., GBRA general manager said. “To add to some of the safety issues, the lakes and rivers change when they get a lot of rain after several years of drought conditions. We just want people who are recreating to be aware and stay safe.”

Wilfred Korth, GBRA’s chief ranger said, “Our park rangers will do everything they can to help ensure the safety of all park and reservoir users – from the fishermen and boaters to swimmers and campers.”

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) recommends a number of boating safety tips for recreationalists to practice:

Always wear a life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD) and carry extra PFDs in both adult and child sizes. Children younger than 13 years of age must wear a PFD while boating or using personal watercraft.

Be especially careful on personal watercraft such as jet skis and water scooters. Maintain a 50-foot distance between your personal watercraft and other personal watercraft, vessels, persons, shore or stationary platform unless operating at an idle speed.

Avoid alcohol. Operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol is just as dangerous as operating a car after drinking alcohol. The probability of being killed in a boating accident doubles when alcohol is involved.

Operate at a safe speed at all times. Excessive speed is a rate of speed greater than is reasonable or prudent without regard for conditions and hazards or greater than will permit a person to bring the boat to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead

Enroll in a boater education course. For information on classroom, video or online course options, please contact TPWD at (800) 792-1112.

Boating infractions such as speeding or boating under the influence of alcohol can be enforced by TPWD game wardens or county sheriff’s deputies.

The GBRA was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 as a water conservation and reclamation district. GBRA provides stewardship for the water resources in its 10-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco rivers, ends at San Antonio Bay, and includes Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio counties.



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