

## Record High Lake Level

I want to assure the residents of Franklin County and Lake Cypress Springs that Lake Cypress Springs, the Franklin County Dam and spillway, are operating exactly as designed and handling the record lake levels.

After a 9 inch rain event on Sunday, December 27, Lake Cypress Springs went from 378.73 feet MSL (Mean Sea Level) or 9 inches above normal to 383.92 feet MSL or 5 feet 10 inches above normal in a little over 24 hours.

You can monitor lake levels and trends on the District's website [www.fcwd.com](http://www.fcwd.com), on the Lake Info / Lake Level page.

Lake Cypress Springs has a fixed spillway structure called a morning glory. That means that when the level of the lake is above normal pool, 378 feet MSL, the water flows over the spillway and exits the reservoir. How fast the water can go over the spillway is dictated by the pressure of the water behind it in Lake Cypress Springs and the pressure of the water downstream in Lake Bob Sandlin. The pressure of the downstream water in Lake Bob Sandlin has negligible impact on the rate the water flows out of Lake Cypress Springs, as the elevation difference between Lake Cypress Springs and Lake Bob Sandlin is significant.

Being a fixed structure means that the District cannot actively do anything to speed up the process.

As for the Emergency Spillway, that is fixed at 385 feet MSL and is designed to relieve pressure on the Franklin County Dam. Water will start to flow out the Emergency Spillway if the lake level reaches that 385 feet MSL elevation.

At the current elevations of both reservoirs, the Lake Cypress Springs spillway is passing 1217.44 CFS (cubic feet per second), 786.85 MGD (millions of gallons per day) or 1,986.79 acre feet per day of water. As the lake level decreases, the pressure will also decrease and, as a result, the discharge rate will also decrease. If you go to the Lake Level page on the District's website, you can see a graph of the previous rain event and how the lake recovered from it.

As a result of the same record rain event, runoff into the lake is very heavy, but it appears that the rate of discharge is keeping up with the inflows and the lake is close to cresting.

To protect people and property, the District has closed all access to the lake and is prohibiting the operation of watercraft on the lake until the water level can come down to a safe level.

The high water also causes a lot of watercraft to get loose from their moorings and drift around the lake. Please assist the District in locating and returning these watercraft by either reporting yours missing or any that have drifted up on your lake lot. You can make the reports to the District at 903.537.4536 or at [fcwd@fcwd.com](mailto:fcwd@fcwd.com). Please, for your safety, do not attempt to recover the watercraft yourself. If you are caught on the lake you will be required to leave.

For those of you that have installed the required boathouse ID tag, that is much appreciated and has greatly assisted in the timely return of missing watercraft. For those who have not installed the tag, please get them installed as soon as conditions allow. The District will be issuing violation notices on boathouses that are not properly tagged.

If you would like to share any photographs of the high water, please email them to [fcwd@fcwd.com](mailto:fcwd@fcwd.com)