

I wanted to give you an update on the flooding conditions on Lake Cypress Springs.

The Lake Patrol is continuing to round up watercraft and property and will be contacting owners to make arrangements to get the property returned. This process will be ongoing over the New Years holiday weekend. The District's main office will be taking calls and checking emails on New Years Day, Friday to assist with homeowners who may be at their lake property over the long weekend. Emailing (fcwd@fcwd.com) is still a very efficient way to report missing or found property to the District. Please include a detailed description of the property, TX numbers, brand, color, etc. Also include your name, address, development, lot number, boathouse id tag number, and a call back telephone number.

District personnel are working overtime dawn to dusk to get this missing property returned to its rightful owners.

I would also like to address some of the questions that I have been receiving about the high water.

First and foremost, I want to reiterate that Lake Cypress Springs, the Franklin County Dam and the spillway did exactly what it was supposed to do to handle 9 inches of rain in a 24 hour period. The service spillway (morning glory) has been passing in excess of 2000 acre feet of water per day or about 700 million gallons per day. On the District's website's Lake Level page, you can track progress of the lake returning to normal pool elevation. According to models that the District has, if we get no more significant rain, the lake will be near normal pool elevation around January 13. This is an estimated date based on the best data that we currently have available.

The fish screen that is around the top of the morning glory collects debris in high water situations. District personnel are closely monitoring this and working diligently to clear this debris multiple times on a daily basis.



This fish screen is a requirement of Texas Parks and Wildlife for the State to issue a permit to the District to introduce and maintain grass carp in Lake Cypress Springs. The grass carp are what is keeping the hydrilla under control. Sometime two important issues contradict each other and the District must try and strike an appropriate balance.

I was asked why the District did not require that all houses be built above the 385 MSL elevation. A decision was made many years ago when the lots around the lake were being developed to allow for the construction of houses on lots as long as they maintain a linear required setback from the sides of the lots. No requirement was put in place on elevation. If one had been put into place, it would have severely restricted the location and size that a house could be on numerous lots. This would have reduced the value of the lots by making them less desirable. The location of the houses within the linear setbacks was left to the owner and that owner needed to do the due diligence necessary to see if the risk of potential flooding outweighed the benefit of better view, size and location of the house.

As far as lowering the emergency spillway, its sole purpose and what it was designed to do is to release water from the reservoir when the pressure of impounded water becomes hazardous to the integrity of the dam. After a previous high water event a few years ago, the District had its engineers evaluate the questions of whether a lowering of the the emergency spillway was feasible and it was determined that it was not.

Lake Cypress Springs is a water supply reservoir with recreational use. In flood situations, it is designed to hold a certain amount of water and to release it appropriately. The District owns land so it can inundate it. This includes the land around the shoreline of Lake Cypress Springs. In the lease document with lessees, the District is specifically indemnified by its lessees for the inundating of property it has leased.

The District is dismissing all outstanding Notices of Violation of District Rules and Regulations. The District will reassess potential violations after the current high water situation has been dealt with. The District understands that registered contractors are going to be very busy and permit expiration dates will be adjusted accordingly.

Please remember that your contractors must be registered to perform permitted repairs. If you bring in a new contractor that has never worked on Lake Cypress Springs, please make sure they understand the Rules and Regulations including the requirement to register. Some repairs will require obtaining a District construction permit so please check with the District's Compliance Officer prior to starting a project to make sure you have obtained the necessary permits.

Here is a link to a picture gallery of high water photographs on the District's website. <http://www.fcwd.com/assets/img/flooding/>