

# Life on the Lakes

## Information About Lakes Hamilton & Catherine

### ***Hazards Around Dams***

If you plan on boating near Carpenter, Rempel or Blakely dams or any dam, you need to be aware of the hazards associated with these facilities. Large amounts of water can be discharged through a dam any time, day or night. Water discharges result from two types of operations: power generation and spillway operation. Most facilities were constructed for hydroelectric purposes and generation is subject to when the demand for electricity is high - so generation can occur at any time with little warning. Spillways are opened to release excess water during high flow periods such as during heavy rains. Both types of releases create strong currents, turbulent waters, dangerous undertows and quickly changing water levels in the tailrace area of the dams.

Entergy Arkansas Inc. dams are equipped with warning sirens and strobe lights to provide a margin of warning to the public below the dams prior to discharges. During emergency conditions such warning may not be possible. Above the dams there are buoy lines identifying the hazard areas and access is strictly prohibited at all times. Warning signs are posted above and below the dams identifying the specific dangers in these areas.

### ***What should I do when operations occur?***

At Entergy Arkansas dams, sirens are sounded when water is about to be released from either the turbines at the powerhouse or through the spillway gates. Local regulations require boaters in the tailrace areas below Carpenter and Rempel dams to move downstream at least 100 yards from the base of the dams within two minutes after the warning siren is sounded and to stay beyond that point until water conditions stabilize. Conditions are considered stabilized after the initial surge of water passes and an even flow of water is established. In addition, boating within 100 yards of the base of the dams while one or more spillway gates are open is prohibited.

Also, all persons in boats that enter the area within 100 yards of the base of the dams are required to wear a U.S Coast Guard approved personal flotation device. A violation of any of the above not only jeopardizes your safety but is punishable by law.





## Dock Lighting Reminder

To improve boating safety, we recently revised our permitting guideline for dock lighting. It now states:

*“Only low-watt yellow-colored lighting that does not create a hazard to boaters is allowed on any type of facilities (this includes boardwalks, decks, piers, swim docks and boat docks). All lights are to be pointed downward and shielded to prevent visibility of the bulb within 50’ of the lake side of the facility. Motion activated lighting is preferred. Two-inch diameter blue reflectors placed at 10-foot intervals along the docks sides are recommended. Red, green or white lights shall not be used as they could be confused as navigational lights.”*

## Going out at Night? Flip the Switch!

Taking a run up the lake at night can sure be enjoyable.

Better fishing, fewer boats, and the stars bring folks out on the lakes at night.

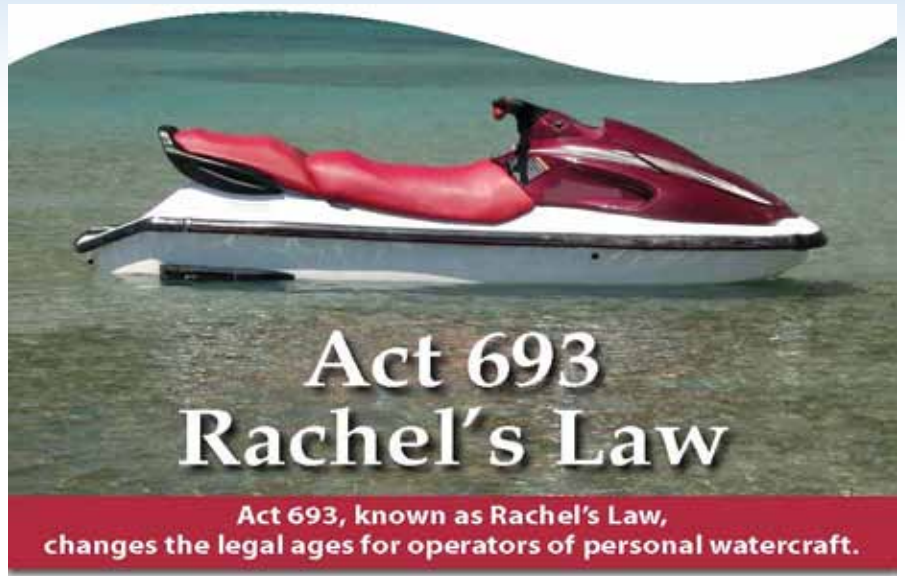
Before departing for a night cruise, check to be sure that your navigational lights are operating properly, and turn them on before taking off.



**Flip the switch!  
It could save your life.**



## New Law in Effect



No person under 16 years of age shall operate a personal watercraft on Arkansas waters with the following exceptions:

- People 12, 13, 14, and 15 years of age may operate a personal watercraft if they are accompanied by someone at least 18 who is in a position to take immediate control of the vessel. If the accompanying person was born after 1985, he or she must have a valid boating education card.
- A person under 12 may operate a personal watercraft if he or she is accompanied by someone at least 21 who is in a position to take immediate control of the vessel. If the accompanying person was born on or after January 1, 1986, he or she must have a valid boating education card.
- Anyone aboard a personal watercraft must wear a US Coast Guard-approved life jacket.

Effective Jan. 1, 2010, the Arkansas boating education course will include additional material about safe and proper handling of personal watercraft. The course will include an examination.



## Regulatory Buoys

Garland County Ordinance No. 0-03-30 passed in 2003 restricted future buoys only for locations associated with commercial establishments, public launching ramps and public swimming areas. When this ordinance passed, there were numerous existing buoys adjacent to residential shoreline. The ordinance established guidelines for grandfathering, which allowed some of these existing buoys to remain if they were properly permitted when they were installed. All others were required to be removed. New buoys for use at lakefront private residences is no longer allowed.

Lakefront property owners may install their own signs on their dock or shoreline. For example, “5 mph within 100 feet of dock” to remind boaters of existing law. Such signs should not be larger than three feet by four feet.



# Boating Accidents Increased in 2009

According to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission there were 96 boating mishaps in Arkansas during 2009. This was an increase from the 86 accidents reported in 2008. These accidents involved 123 vessels, 18 of which were personal watercraft. This is a lower ratio of accidents involving personal watercraft than in past years, Stephanie Weatherington, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's boating law administrator said.

Many of the accidents involved injuries, but there were also 17 fatalities in 2009, 13 of which could be alive today to enjoy another summer on the lakes if they had been wearing life jackets. In fact, in nearly two-thirds of these accidents, no one was wearing a life jacket.

Of the 96 accidents in Arkansas, the Commission reported that seven occurred on Lake Hamilton and two on Lake Catherine. There were nine vessels involved in the accidents on Lake Hamilton resulting in two injuries. The accidents on Lake Catherine involved three vessels but resulted in seven injuries.

## What caused most of these boating accidents?

- ☞ Operator inattention, 13 accidents;
- ☞ Operator inexperience, 9 accidents;
- ☞ Hazardous water, 8 accidents;
- ☞ Fault of machinery, 8 accidents;
- ☞ Negligent operation, 7 accidents.

But, Weatherington said, the primary causes of fatal accidents were falls overboard and overloading or improper loading of boats.

## When did more accidents occur?

- ☞ According to the AGFC, more accidents occurred in June than any other month, and more accidents were on Saturdays.
- ☞ Mid-afternoon was the most dangerous time – from 3 to 4 p.m.
- ☞ Of the 96 accidents, only nine involved persons under 21 years old. Average age of the boat operators involved in accidents was 42. The average age of persons who drowned was 53.
- ☞ Of the persons operating boats in 2009's accidents, only 14 had taken some type of boating education course.

Weatherington said other possible factors for the increase of accidents from 2008 to 2009 may have been lower fuel costs, more favorable weather and higher water levels.

## What can you do?

Using your boat this week? Grab a life jacket and "Wear It!" There are new styles that are comfortable and lightweight such as the inflatable life jackets which are perfect for most boating activities. Remember to read the label if you have any questions. Accidents happen too fast to reach for stowed life jackets. Entergy Arkansas reminds you: don't just carry a life jacket – **"Wear It!"**



# Boating Courses Being Offered Locally

**Boater's education is mandatory for anyone born on or after January 1, 1986.** You must have successfully completed an approved Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Boating Education Course and carry proof while operating a motorboat or sailboat on Arkansas water.

⚓ **Power Boats, Inc.** at 4903 Central Avenue will be sponsoring four **"Safe Boating Weekends"** this summer with boating classes and Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel safety checks.

- Free Boater's Education Classes: May 22, June 19, July 17, August 21
- Free "Women on Water" Classes: May 23, June 20, July 18, August 22

(For more information or to register, contact Bill Marsh or Katie Knoll at (501) 525-1166 or visit [www.powerboats.com](http://www.powerboats.com).)

⚓ **Lake Ouachita State Park:** May 26, June 9, July 14 and August 11 (12:30pm - 6:30pm)  
(For more information contact James Wilbourn or Kevin Billings @ 501-767-8148 ext 227 or 228)

⚓ **Online courses** are also available from the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. Visit [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com) for more information.



# New Penalty for Unpermitted Docks

We process hundreds of requests for permits a year for new shoreline facilities & activities, modifications to existing facilities, and to update or transfer permits to the current property owners. However, through various processes like reviewing assessor's records and checking aerial photos, we still find older existing facilities that are not permitted to the current property owners.

Most folks are quick to want to correct these issues once they understand the requirements. But, there is a small percentage of the population that will not send in their permit applications in a timely manner. To remedy this we are instituting a process improvement that we hope will discourage inattention to these important permit issues.

In the new process, the owner will be informed of the permitting process in writing along with a deadline to correct. Once the deadline expires, the owner will receive a final notice by certified mail or process server. His or her signature will indicate that they should be aware of our permitting program and they will agree, and be subject to, the conditions required by Entergy Arkansas. We will expect them to complete a permit application or remove the facility from Entergy Arkansas' property. If they fail to request a permit within 30 days of receiving the letter, the following will apply:

- ▶ The location will be flagged in our system as a "permit violation";
- ▶ No new permit requests will be considered at the address until corrected;
- ▶ The processing fee will increase by \$50;
- ▶ Every additional year that the facility remains unpermitted, the processing fee will raise \$100/year (i.e. \$400, \$500, \$600 and so on);
- ▶ The transfer process that we have set up with the real estate and title companies will require a valid permit for all shoreline facilities to transfer to the new owner. The balance of any delinquent permitting costs will be required before the permit will be transferred to the new owner after closing.

Everyone who has a shoreline facility should have a copy of the permit Entergy Arkansas issued to them (not a previous owner) for the "Non-Project" use of the lake bed and shoreline. If not, please contact us to send you a copy or start the permitting process.

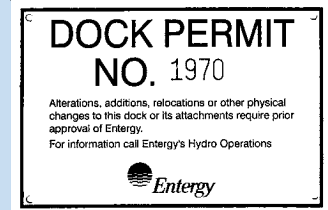
## Who do You Call?

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| ☎ To Report a Power Outage  | 800-968-8243    |
| ☎ To Request a Dock, Seawall, Riprap Permit                               | 501-844-2148 x4 |
| ☎ To Request a Dredging Permit  | 501-844-2148 x4 |
| ☎ To Report Man-made Floating Debris                                      | 501-844-2148 x4 |
| ☎ To Report a Floating Tree (USCG Aux.)                                   | 501-282-9541    |
| ☎ To Leave a Message for Entergy Hydro Ops                                | 501-844-2148 x3 |
| ☎ To Find out about Flow Releases from Carpenter and Rempel dams          | 501-844-2148 x2 |
| ☎ To Find out about Drawdown Information for lakes Hamilton and Catherine | 501-844-2148 x1 |
| ☎ For Information about a Local Park                                      |                 |
| • Hill Wheatley (City of HS Parks Dept.)                                  | 501-321-6871    |
| • Entergy Park (City of HS Parks Dept.)                                   | 501-321-6871    |
| • Carpenter Dam (City of HS Parks Dept.)                                  | 501-321-6871    |
| • Lake Catherine State Park   | 501-844-4784    |
| • Avery & Stephens (US Army Corps of Eng.)                                | 501-767-2401    |
| ☎ To Report a Boating Law Violation or Boating Accident:                  |                 |
| • Garland County Sheriff's Marine Patrol                                  | 501-622-3660    |
| • Arkansas Game & Fish Commission   | 800-482-9262    |

# Thinking of selling your lake property?

**NOTICE: Everyone with a facility on the lake, be it a boardwalk or boat dock, and everything in between, should have a facility permit in their name. Please note that just because there is a dock permit tag on the facility does not mean it is a permitted dock. To be a permitted dock, it must be listed in the current property owner's name.**

Facility permits do not automatically transfer to the new owners of a lakefront property. On any given day we receive five to six



requests for copies of permits and permit drawings. Unfortunately, some of these permits are no longer valid and cannot be transferred to a new owner at this time. Perhaps the property has changed hands in the past, a new dock has been moved into place, or a PWC ramp has been added, etc. This creates a problem for all parties involved.

The best practice would be to turn a copy of your permit over to your Realtor with current photos, or have it on hand when you list your property if you are selling it yourself. This will allow potential buyers to have the opportunity to review the permit prior to closing to ensure that it matches the facility installed. **Sitting at the title company should not be the first time that a buyer gets to review the permit.** Any changes in shoreline facilities will need to be resolved prior to permit transfer.

If you have any questions or need a copy of your current permit – you can call 501-844-2148 ext. 3 and leave a detailed message with your lake address and contact information.



## Electricity and Water DON'T Mix!

Wave action, storms, UV rays and many other causes can lead to problems with electrical wiring in marine applications. If you have electrical components in or near the water, it is your responsibility to make sure they are safe by frequently inspecting them. Some common electrical components on the shoreline are:

- \* Dock lighting and power outlets
- \* Battery chargers
- \* Sprinkler pumps (Note that many manufacturers warn against using submersible pumps in lakes and other swimming areas. Check the owner's manual before powering submersible pumps.)

Permit holders and anyone using electrical components shall ensure that all electrical work near the shoreline meets

code requirements, which would include the use of Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters or "GFCI's" to protect you against shock. Use the "TEST" feature periodically on GFCI's to check that they are working properly.

If you're not sure about the safety of electrical wiring or components, call a qualified electrician. It just might save someone's life!



## A picture is worth a thousand words

Entergy Arkansas requires photos of the shoreline and the existing facilities along the shoreline to be included in ALL permit applications.



Current photos of the shoreline and all existing facilities will need to be submitted along with permit applications, or the application will be put on hold, or returned, until we receive them. They can be printed and submitted along with your paperwork or you can email them to either Blake Hogue (for construction or modification permits) at [bhogue@entergy.com](mailto:bhogue@entergy.com) or to Kimberly Bogart (for permitting existing or transfer permits) at [kbogar1@entergy.com](mailto:kbogar1@entergy.com)

## 2010 Cash for Trash Bash

Keep America Beautiful's Great American Clean-up got off to a great start in Hot Springs on March 6 when over 140 youths and adults participated in "Cash for Trash 2010." Nine Youth groups picked up litter from a total of 10 sites on Lake Hamilton, Lake Catherine, and the Ouachita River below Rempel Dam, bringing in an incredible **11,400 pounds of trash!**

This clean-up was sponsored by TRASH BASH Council Inc. a local non-profit consortium including volunteers from Entergy Arkansas, City of Hot Springs Sanitation Department, Mid-America Science Museum, Hot Springs/Garland County Beautification Commission, and many local businesses. Cash for Trash is a unique concept in litter reduction and community involvement funded through grants and donations.

As in years past, youth groups were invited to collect trash from the lakes and surrounding areas on the last day of the drawdown. These groups were paid a bounty of \$5 per bag of trash, with up to \$200 per group available. The youth teams were also encouraged to collect pledges for their work too, bringing in even more cash for their groups. During the day the teams were exposed to the environmental impact of litter, as well as the effort of picking it up, forming a long-lasting lesson for the youth.

Youth groups included in this year's event were: Blue and Gold Make Green Lakeside Environmental Club, Lakeside Baseball Association Team 12s, Jr Bass Club, AR Hawg Hunters, Lakeside Basketball Team 13s, Diamond Hogs, Oaklawn UMC Youth Group, Piney Baptist Church Youth Group, and the New Salem Youth Ministry out of Pine Bluff.

If you would like to support Trash Bash Inc., or you belong to an organization that might be interested in participating in a similar program next year or just want more information, call Adam Roberts at (501) 623-7871 or visit [www.hsgcbc.com](http://www.hsgcbc.com).



### Want the Latest Lake News?

Go to [www.entergy.com/hydro](http://www.entergy.com/hydro) and subscribe to our Email service. We use this service to share important information concerning lake related information such as: safety related issues, permitting information, drawdown and refill schedules, generation plans, emergency weather related drawdowns, policy changes and other time sensitive information.



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**Help Us With Our Mailing List**

Please contact Entergy Arkansas, at  
 844-2148 or send an e-mail to  
[kbogar1@entergy.com](mailto:kbogar1@entergy.com)  
 with any corrections.

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## What Requires a Permit?

All shoreline facilities, structures and ground-disturbing activities on Entergy Arkansas, Inc. Project 271 lands or water require a permit from Entergy Arkansas prior to installation or placement. Some of the most common types of facilities, structures and activities that require a permit include:

- ✓ Boat docks
- ✓ Piers
- ✓ Landings
- ✓ PWC ramps
- ✓ Decks
- ✓ Walkways
- ✓ Boardwalks
- ✓ Bridges
- ✓ Boat Ramps
- ✓ Steps
- ✓ Seawalls
- ✓ Riprap
- ✓ Fill/dredge
- ✓ Excavation
- ✓ Roads
- ✓ Waterlines
- ✓ Buoys
- ✓ Utility facilities
- ✓ Water withdrawal
- ✓ Heat/Air exchange piping
- ✓ Inflatable platforms/trampolines
- ✓ Boat lifts (when outside the slip)



To learn more about Entergy Arkansas' shoreline facility permit program and the requirements and specification for private facilities on Entergy Arkansas' property, visit our web site at [www.entergy.com/hydro](http://www.entergy.com/hydro) or contact us at (501) 844-2148.

Do you know of lakefront property owners who are not receiving this publication?

Send their names and addresses to:

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