

# Life ON THE Lakes

INFORMATION ABOUT LAKES HAMILTON AND CATHERINE



Entergy®

## Debris on the Lakes

It is normal in most bodies of waters that after a heavy rain, or a refill from drawdown conditions, there is an increased amount of floating debris. Those who have been around this area for a few seasons have come to expect a springtime increase in the amount of both natural and manmade items floating in lakes Hamilton and Catherine. When boating, please take extra care to watch out for logs, trees, and even pieces of docks floating in the lake or lodged in shallow areas as a result of the damage caused by storms. The good news is, for the most part, this is a problem that generally takes care of itself as floating natural debris either sinks or flows downstream.



Entergy gets many calls every year asking about debris removal. Whose job is it to do that? The short answer is: It's everybody's job. But there is also a longer answer. First, Entergy Arkansas, Inc. owns and operates Carpenter and Rempel Dams and the related shorelines and lakebeds, though not the water itself. The state of Arkansas owns the actual water. So, it's reasonable to ask what Entergy Arkansas' responsibilities are for debris removal. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, by whose authority Entergy Arkansas operates the hydroelectric project, says, essentially, that the company's responsibility is limited to hazards associated with the hydroelectric generation facilities themselves, and that hazards elsewhere in the lakes would be better left to "local entities and law enforcement agencies." Arkansas law regarding recreational land, similarly, absolves Entergy Arkansas and other owners of property available to the public for recreational purposes from responsibility for removing naturally occurring potential safety hazards from the property. That said, Entergy Arkansas does oversee dock construction and maintenance on the lakes; and when a dock breaks apart and makes the sad transformation from recreational facility to floating hazardous debris, the responsibility of removal of that debris lies first with the owner of the dock, but we will step in and remove the obstacle, if necessary.

Naturally occurring debris – logs, trees, mats of tangled sticks, dead animals, etc. – are part of the cycle of nature. Entergy Operations hasn't the resources to take on the enormous task of keeping the lakes completely free of all these things. We encourage all individual landowners to help in cleaning up area around their property, within reason. However, we do not want equipment on the lakebed. Similar to how your city or county will aid in the disposal of large yard waste if you get it to the street for pick up, Entergy will send out someone to pick up logs that are at least 10" in diameter and/or 25' long and are relocated along a shoreline that we can access with a truck, such as a boat ramp. For more information on debris removal, contact Entergy at 501-844-2101.

## Entergy to Require Boat Dock Inspections

Overtime facilities will age, seasonal changes and general wear and tear can affect facility conditions and people have been seriously injured on our lakes because of poor dock condition or faulty wiring.

To help ensure public safety and to help protect new buyers, beginning Jan. 1, 2018, Entergy will require all facilities located on our property to be inspected prior to transfer of a permit to a new owner. Entergy is working with local licensed home inspectors to build a condition-based report similar to what is used for home inspections. While getting the inspection done will require some effort and expense, we believe the process will benefit all buyers of property on the lakes. Not only will the potential buyer be supplied with information on the condition of the structures, but also on its compliance with Entergy requirements.

We will honor only reports with all required information as submitted by an Arkansas Real Estate Inspection Board certified inspector. We will be placing a list of inspectors that should be familiar with our requirements and more information on this new process on [www.entropy.com/hydro](http://www.entropy.com/hydro).

These reports will at times list deficiencies (signage, electrical condition, size and position of facilities, etc.) that must be corrected prior to transfer. We recommend correcting these issues prior to sale. As always though we also recommend that all facility owners on the lakes inspect them each winter to discover any areas of concern that are not visible during periods of full pool.

Entergy Hydro will be here to assist throughout the process. It is our sincere hope this will make our lakes safer and more enjoyable into the future.

Want More Lake News?

Subscribe to our email list at [entropy.com/hydro](http://entropy.com/hydro). Or find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/lifeonthelakes](https://facebook.com/lifeonthelakes)

2017

## Finding Out if You're Restricted

Entergy's Sensitive/Limited Use Areas have been uploaded onto the online Garland County Map. These include the following designations: steep slope, natural rock shoreline, fish spawning & nursery area, wetlands and a new designation of high-flow areas. You can learn more about the restrictions on these areas in our Shoreline Application Guidebook, and you can find on the Garland County map here:

<http://www.cityhs.net/163/1578/Geographic-Information-System-GIS>

This site is hosted by the City of Hot Springs Information Systems Department. From the above link you can also find a city map, public works map and planning map.

**21,820  
Pounds**

### Participants in this year's two Trash Bash events removed nearly 11 tons of litter!

People young and old banded together in one of the largest turnouts the Trash Bash Council has ever had. Be a part of it all in the next Trash Bash by signing in, joining up, and donating your time and goods to these incredible events.

Visit [www.arkansastrashbash.org](http://www.arkansastrashbash.org) for more details on next year's events.



## FAQs on Some Rules and Regulations

### Why does Entergy Hydro Operations require facilities to be 15' off the extended property line?

This is to create a buffer that will allow you, or one of your guests, to temporarily moor to the perimeter of your facility and still only occupy the frontage associated with your property. Another guideline is to have 30' between facilities – this is to establish safe temporary mooring use of the perimeter for both facilities (15' x 2).

### Why does a parallel stall have to have 1.5 times the stall/slip length from the owner's projected property line?

This is, again, to make sure that ingress and egress from the facility occurs in front of the facility owner's property and not their neighbors'. Between this requirement and the ¼-distance-across-the-cove rule, it is sometimes very challenging for facilities in narrow coves to comply.

### Speaking of the ¼-distance rule – what is that one all about?

Imagine if someone builds 30-50 percent out into a cove, then someone across the cove also builds that far out. It does not leave much navigational space. Restricting each side of a cove to ¼ the distance leaves at least half of the cove open for navigation.

### Why do you require a 4' head walk walkway in front of the stall area?

This is to insure that the dock has some stability and sets a minimum amount of decking for an area where people walk past each other as they load and unload boats.

### Why is there a limit on how far out of my stall my boat can extend?

The size of boats that can permanently moor on lakes Catherine and Hamilton are essentially set by the size of the boat stalls. The longest boat stall that can be permitted on the lakes is 34'. We allow boats to extend no more than 3' beyond the permitted stall area, which limits the longest boats on the lakes to 37' (including motor). These lakes are not suitable for houseboats and other large boats, and this is one way to help moderate boat traffic.

### Why a 38' x 38' limit on dock size? I should be able to have as big of dock as I want?

The maximum size was set to accommodate two vessels with room to move around them. If not regulated, everyone could potentially have a small marina, boat counts could get out of hand, and the shoreline could disappear into facilities.

### Why the limit of [docks extending] only 55' from the shoreline?

This distance was set many years ago and was a balance of protecting boatable areas of the lake while allowing those with private facilities a set distance out for their facilities..

### Why can't I have as much decking as I want?

If I don't use the boat stall and want to close it in and have it all under a roof, that should not be a problem. Entergy is responsible for promoting and protecting many aspects of the lakes, including protecting the scenic and recreational value. Roofs cause a major visual impact on the lakes. For this reason, they are allowed only to cover the slip area of a boat stall and up to 6' of the fingers directly associated with the stall. In addition, we find that covered decks become outdoor living spaces, complete with tables, chairs, TVs, couches, etc. When this happens, one can no longer see through the dock, causing a navigational concern.

# AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES KNOCKING AT THE DOOR

Silver carp are getting closer to Hot Springs. In June of this year, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission biologists confirmed their presence in the Ouachita River below Rammel Dam. Silver carp, native to China, are now considered an aquatic nuisance species that has, unfortunately, made themselves at home in certain Arkansas waters. While present in the Ouachita River near Hot Springs, they seem to be sporadic in the Rammel Dam-to-Arkadelphia portion of the river.

Silver carp were originally imported into the U.S. legally in the early 1970's. They were used in research for their potential to control phytoplankton (plant plankton) in sewage treatment lagoons. Since 2005, silver carp have formed reproducing populations within the Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio River drainages.

Yes, this is the fish species you have seen in news accounts leaping from the water when disturbed by moving boats. This makes these fish a real hazard in waters where they prosper. Boats under power seem to be just the ticket to make these acrobats do their thing, posing a potential menace to any boater navigating a waterbody infested with silver carp. A prospering population of this species can also result in economic damage from loss of recreational fishing and boating opportunities in affected areas.



Pictured here at the base of Rammel Dam holding a captured silver carp is Andrea Daniel, AGFC biologist

## But why are they a problem?



According to The University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute:

- Silver carp are large fish (up to 100 pounds) that breed very rapidly.
- They can eat up to 40 percent of their body weight daily and are likely to out-compete native species because their diet overlaps that of native fishes.
- When startled--and they find the noise of boat and Jet Ski engines startling--they leap from the water. They have knocked boaters and jet skiers' unconscious and broken noses and windshields.

While they can jump over low bridges, it is unlikely that they could jump over Rammel or Carpenter Dams. So how can they get into lakes Catherine or Hamilton? Like the propagation of other invasive species, such as nuisance vegetation – it is through human actions that they can spread. For

instance, someone collecting bait fish from one water source for use on Catherine or Hamilton could be unknowingly carrying and releasing juvenile silver carp into the waters.

To help prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species like Silver Carp, between bodies of water - the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission recently adopted a new regulation (26.27 Wild-Caught Baitfish Restricted). Effective October 2018, it is unlawful to use live wild-caught baitfish unless they were caught within the same body of water being fished or from a tributary entering upstream of the waterbody. No baitfish may be moved upstream past a dam or barrier that prohibits the normal passage of fish. Exception: Bait fish purchased from a licensed dealer selling only certified, farm-raised batfish may be used.

# Picking the Right Life Vest

Life vests – or PFDs – come in many shapes and sizes and are tailor-made for different watersports. Are you wearing the right one? Are your children? This is not a question you want to have to think about after tragedy strikes.



The purpose of wearing a life vest is to keep your head above water. If it is the wrong size or type, it might not be able to float you, and it even might come off – So Try It On For Size:

- 1) Check the label on the inside to make sure it is the proper size for you
- 2) The label also shows if it is rated for your current activity – general boating, skiing, kayaking... Nine check
- 3) Make sure you properly fasten the jacket on – it won't work if you don't wear it
- 4) Be sure to check the fit, with your arms above your head ask someone to pull up on the shoulders of the jacket - it shouldn't be able to ride up over your chin or face
- 5) Remember to inspect the jacket for wear and tear and replace as needed

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, half of all recreational boating fatalities happen in calm water, close to shore and are caused by drowning. In most of these cases, life jackets were available on board, but were not being worn.

Check out the full Coast Guard brochure for more information:

[https://www.uscgboating.org/images/howtochoosetherightlifejacket\\_brochure.pdf](https://www.uscgboating.org/images/howtochoosetherightlifejacket_brochure.pdf)



## Who to Call When...



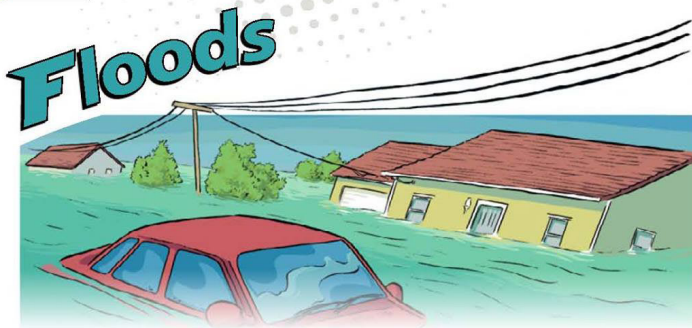
**Lights out on the bridge-** This can be a navigation and safety concern. The Arkansas Department of Transportation, which maintains the lights, can be reached at 870-623-8312.

**Reporting an accident-** Two agencies handle boating regulation and enforcement: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Garland County Marine Patrol. If you have a boating accident, or see one, call AFGC at 501-525-0929 or the Garland County Sheriff Office at 501-622-3660.

**Overflowing storm drains/storm water soil run-off-** Inside the city limits call Hot Springs Storm Water Division at 501-321-6773. Outside the city limits call Garland County Inspections Department at 501-609-9067. You can also report it to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality at 501-682-0744.

**Someone is burning or depositing yard waste in the lake bed-** This is against Arkansas Law and you can report it to the Garland County Inspections Department at 501-609-9067.

**Someone is digging, 4-wheeling, or using other equipment in the lake bed-** This is damaging to the lake bed and can increase soil runoff please let us know at 501-844-2101.



Flooding happens during heavy rains, when rivers overflow, when ocean waves come onshore, when snow melts too fast, or when dams or levees break. This is the most common natural-weather event. Flooding may be only a few inches of water, or it may cover a house to the rooftop. Floods that happen very quickly are called flash floods.

## What to do...

**If you notice a problem at a dam –** call 911. Local authorities know who to contact when there are concerns with the local dams on the Ouachita River.

**If you notice a river/lake is unexpectedly high and rising on a clear day –**

immediately head for higher ground and call 911 to report the situation.

**If a road is covered with water –** remember that floodwaters are deceptive. As the old saying goes, “Turn around, don’t drown.” Roadways can become compromised by floods and these weak spots are not always visible. Avoid flooded areas if you can.

**If your car stalls in a flooded area –** abandon it as soon as possible. Floodwaters can rise rapidly and sweep a car – and its occupants – away.

**If a flood traps you in your house –** move to the second floor and, if necessary, to the roof. Take warm clothing, a flashlight and portable radio with you. Then wait for help; don’t try to swim to safety. Rescue teams will be looking for you.

**If you receive a reverse 911 call –** first, take it seriously. Next, listen carefully and follow all of the instructions from the phone call. If it is to warn you of a flood, it may tell you to stay in your home or head to higher ground immediately. Do so as quickly as possible.

Entergy Arkansas Inc. monitors Carpenter and Rammel dams 24/7, but if you notice an unusual situation concerning the lake levels or the dams, call 911 to report it. Thanks to FEMA publication 593-237B (9/90) for information used in this article.

*Am I at risk?*

Floods can occur in every single U.S. state. Some floods develop slowly, and some can build in just a few minutes. People who live in low-lying areas – near water or behind a levee or dam – are at even greater risk.

*Did you know?*

Flooding can change familiar places, like walkways, roads and fields. Avoid walking through water. It might be deeper than you think!



### FACT CHECK

1. Which of the following does NOT cause a flood?
  - a. Tropical storms and hurricanes
  - b. Spring thaw and melting snow
  - c. New construction
  - d. None – they can all cause floods
2. **True or False?** 1 foot of water is enough to make most cars float.
3. **True or False?** 6 inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet.

ANSWERS  
(1) D.  
(2) True!  
(3) True. Stay away from moving water!



For more facts and info on floods visit  
<http://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/floods>  
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/>

# FLOODING? BE SAFE!

## Turn Around Don't Drown





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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 activity. Some of the most common types of facilities, structures and activities that require a permit include:

- Boat docks
- Piers
- Landings
- PWC ramps/lifts
- 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)



**Any changes to the footprint, roof line, support structure or change in the size of an existing facility requires a new application/permit.**

To learn more about Entergy Arkansas' shoreline facility permit program and the requirements and specifications 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) 844-2101.

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

Send their names, addresses & emails to:

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Please contact Entergy Arkansas, at 501-844-2101 or send an e-mail to [gbetti1@entergy.com](mailto:gbetti1@entergy.com) with any corrections.