Preparing docks for floods on the Highland Lakes



Inks Take and Take Marble Falls.

Use solar-powered or battery-operated lights on dock to make it visible.

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The easiest way to maintain a boat dock is to hire a qualified boat dock contractor, especially for part-time lake residents who may not be on site when lake levels rise and fall.

LCRA recommends dock owners follow these seven steps:

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Position the anchors: Keep docks close to shore. Double-up cables and anchor downstream closest to the shoreline. No anchors should be upstream. When water comes down the river, docks will pivot close to shore and away from fast-moving water, debris, logs or loose docks.

Stay within maximum distances from shoreline standards: LCRA's Safety Standards for Residential Docks on the Highland Lakes sets out maximum distances docks may be from shores. The standards apply even when lake levels are low and docks are moved to following receding lake levels. The shoreline is wherever the water meets the land. Boat docks should not be moved so they extend into the middle of the river channel or pose a threat to other boaters. **The maximum distance docks should be from the shoreline is:**

Lake Buchanan	Inks lake	Lake LBJ	Lake Marble Falls	Lake Travis
150 feet	35 feet	50 feet	35 feet	100 feet

Install proper lighting: Place solar-powered or battery-operated lights on docks to make them visible at night.

Conduct routine maintenance: Inspect the dock's structure to ensure there are no cracks or other issues that would make the dock vulnerable during a flood.

Check cables: Make sure the cables are in good shape and are not frayed or corroded. Damaged cables should be replaced.

Encase flotation: Make sure the dock's flotation foam is encased by Feb. 18, 2014, as required by the Safety Standards for Residential Docks on the Highland Lakes. Encased flotation will help keep sections of the foam from breaking off and will help keep the dock from sinking or turning upside down.

Limit loose items: Keep your dock free of unsecured items such as lawn chairs, toys, and shoes that could be washed away by a flood.

*There is no guarantee docks won't be damaged by a flood, but these recommendations will help minimize the risk.

For more information, call 1-800-776-5272, ext. 2024.