

How LCRA Shares Information During a Flood

Key resources

- lcra.org
- Flood Operations Report: floodstatus.lcra.org
- LCRA's Hydromet: hydromet.lcra.org
- LCRA Flood Operations Notification Service: lcra.org/fons
- Twitter: @LCRA
- Facebook: [lowercoloradoriverauthority](https://www.facebook.com/lowercoloradoriverauthority)
- NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards broadcasts: AM 1610 around the Highland Lakes and AM 1670 downstream of Austin
- Local emergency officials
- Area media

Flash floods can occur with little or no warning, especially in the area around the Highland Lakes known as Flash Flood Alley. LCRA works to keep the public informed of flood conditions, dam operations, and projected lake and river levels to help keep people safe and help everyone make informed decisions during flooding.

When flooding rains occur along the lakes or their tributaries, LCRA moves flood waters downstream through a series of dams along the Highland Lakes. Lake Travis is the only one of the Highland Lakes with the ability to store floodwaters.



LCRA notifies the public about lake conditions and the potential for flooding near the lakes in numerous ways, including posting information on lcra.org, providing information to local media and offering a free service that will call, text and/or email subscribers when floodgates along the Highland Lakes are opened.

Real-time information about flooding and the threat of flooding is available on lcra.org:

- The Hydromet at hydromet.lcra.org provides current rainfall, streamflow and lake level information from LCRA's extensive network of more than 275 gauges in the lower Colorado River basin.
- The Flood Operations Report at floodstatus.lcra.org provides current and projected information on lake levels, floodgate operations, and downstream river forecasts provided by the National Weather Service. The report is updated frequently during flooding conditions.

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When LCRA opens floodgates at any of the Highland Lakes dams, it also activates the LCRA Flood Operations Notification Service (FONS), a free service that will call, text and/or email subscribers about flood operations along the Highland Lakes or at Lake Bastrop. Water moving through floodgates creates strong currents, and anyone nearby should stay off the water and take immediate action to protect people and property.



The Highland Lakes portion of the lower Colorado River is northwest of Austin, shown here in the red box.

LCRA also uses social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, and activates an emergency hotline to share near real-time information when floodgate operations begin.

LCRA's Emergency Management team notifies local emergency officials when floodgates are opened. Local officials make the decisions to close roads or evacuate neighborhoods.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards broadcasts alert the public to flood watches and warnings. A flood watch means conditions are favorable for flooding. A flood warning means flooding is imminent or is already occurring, and people should move quickly to a place of safety. LCRA rebroadcasts NOAA radio on AM 1610 near the Highland Lakes and on AM 1670 along the Colorado River downstream of Austin.