Water Releases FAQ's

Q. Why does the City release water from the lake?

A. Water is currently being released due to full capacity levels at Lake Corpus Christi. Water is also released to meet municipal, industrial and environmental demands.

Q. What circumstances are taken in consideration before releasing water?

A. The City evaluates the integrity of the Wesley Seale Dam and the potential effects of downstream flooding before making releases.

Q. What is the Agreed Order?

A. The agreed order is a requirement placed on the City in exchange for using this water source. The amount of water depends on lake levels and monthly targets.

Q. Is the City notifying residents downstream before the water is released?

A. Yes, through several venues, including news releases provided to the local media and City's social media accounts.

Q. How long does it take for the water to get down the estuaries once its released?

A. It takes 36 hours to reach the estuaries during a typical release. Due to excessive water, it could reach in as little as 30 hours.

Q. Does the releases affect the drought stage?

A. No, we are still in Stage 1 of the Drought Contingency Plan. When the combined capacity of Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir reaches at least 60 percent for 15 consecutive days, the City Manager or her designee will make the determination to lift Stage 1.

Q. Why can't the City just leave the lake full?

A. The City is expecting more water to flow from the western area of the watershed. To preserve the integrity of the dam, we must release water to make room for the incoming flow.

Q. Where can I find more information about the lake levels?

A. Our webpage, www.cctexas.com/waterreleases, will provide links to lake level information from the Texas Water Development Board.

Q. What caused the flooding of Lake Corpus Christi?

A. Recent rains experienced in our western watershed area have entered Lake Corpus Christi, causing steady increase in stored water volume in the reservoir.

Q. When was the last time the lake reached 100 percent capacity?

A. Last time the lake reached 100 percent capacity was in 2015.

Q. What should nearby residents expect?

A. Residents will experience some moderate flooding. In Bluntzer flow cuts off the lowest residential areas downstream and numerous secondary roads and low bridges may be underwater.

In Calallen, moderate low land flooding may occur. Roads to the lower residential areas may flood, requiring evacuations in the subdivision of Co Rd 73 in Riverside Edition I and II, Riverside Annex, Twin Lakes, Riverside Acres and homes in Nueces River Estates and Lindgreen Estates. Hazel Bazemore Park and Labonte Park will also flood.

Q. When will levels begin to decrease?

A. Lake levels will depend on weather conditions. The City is expecting additional water flow from the western watershed.

Q. How much water is being released on a normal day, compared to now?

A. The City releases 100 cubic feet per second on a normal day.

Q. How long will water be released for?

A. The City anticipates the gates to be open approx. 3-6 days depending on weather conditions.

Q. What measures has the City taken regarding water releases?

A. The City has been monitoring inflows and adjusting releases to prevent downstream flooding.