



US Army Corps
Of Engineers

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER SAFETY

The Chattahoochee River just below Buford Dam is one of the most popular trout fishing spots in the State. However, the Corps of Engineers cautions visitors to use extreme care when fishing below the Dam. The Chattahoochee can change quickly from a serene slow moving stream to a swift and treacherous river when water is released at Buford Dam. During water release the river can rise up to 11 feet within a matter of minutes with the force of over 8,000 cubic feet of water per second. Since 1983 there have been 8 fatalities and over 50 nonfatal incidents immediately below the Dam.

Several safety precautions are in effect for the 3 miles of river between Buford Dam and the Ga. Highway 20 bridge. Visitors should:

- **Wear a life jacket.** This is mandatory for all persons wading, boating or tubes floating on this section of the river.
- **Exit the river immediately when the warning horns sound** which indicate water is being released at the dam. (South of the Ga. Highway 20 bridge, river users cannot hear the warning horns).
- **Listen to radio station 1610 AM for river safety messages** and water release schedules.
- **Pay attention to warning signs** posted along the riverbanks.
- **Plan trips in advance** by calling 770-945-1466 for water release schedules.

Fishermen should also be aware of the effects of hypothermia. Waters released at the dam average 44 to 58 degrees year-round. When exposed to these temperatures, exhaustion or unconsciousness can occur in 30 to 60 minutes. Wearing rubber waders is strongly recommended.

For more information or questions about river safety call the Corps of Engineers at (770) 945-9531. The Lake Lanier "home page" also contains helpful recreation information. The address is <http://lanier.sam.usace.army.mil/>



WEARING A LIFE JACKET CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE !

DOWNSTREAM FLOW RATE DATA

WATER	RIVER MILE	MILES	APPROX. TIME	APPROX. TIME
		BELOW	BEFORE	UNTIL
Location		BUFORD DAM	INITIAL WATER RISE	COMPLETELY RECEDES
Buford Dam	348.5			
Highway 20 Bridge	345.8	2.7	45 min.	1-1/2 hrs.
Settles Bridge	343	5.5	1-1/2 hrs.	3 hrs.
Littles Ferry Bridge Forsyth - Fulton County Line	340	8.5	3 hrs.	6 hrs.
Suwanne Creek - Gwinnett County Waterworks	338	10.5	3-1/2 hrs.	7 hrs.
Rogers Bridge	337	11.5	3-1/2 hrs.	7 hrs.
Abbotts Bridge Ga. Hwy. 120	335	13.5	4-1/2 hrs.	8 hrs.
McClure Bridge	334	14.5	5 hrs.	10 hrs.
Medlock Bridge Ga. Hwy. 141	331	17.5	6 hrs.	14 hrs.
Jones Bridge	328	20.5	6-1/2 hrs.	13 hrs.
Holcomb Bridge / Gwinnett - Fulton County Line	325	23.5	8 hrs.	16 hrs.
Seven Branch Creek	319	29.5	10 hrs.	20 hrs.
Roswell Road - U.S. 19	317	31.5	10-1/2 hrs.	21 hrs.
Morgan Falls Dam	312.5	36	11-1/2 hrs.	-----

All times for initial rise are approximate since exact time will vary with generating load and weather conditions.

Times for water to completely recede are approximate since downstream conditions vary.