

GENERAL LOCKING PROCEDURE

Below is the general locking procedure. Follow all directions given by the Lockmaster during the locking procedure.

1. Slowly approach either the upper or lower entrance to the lock. The Lockmaster watches for boats wanting to lock through so keep your vessel out in the open where the Lockmaster can see you. They can also be reached by marine radio, Channel 13 and by phone at the numbers listed for each lock.
2. It may take a few minutes for the Lockmaster to ready the lock chamber for use. Follow any direction given by the Lockmaster as to where to position your vessel during this time.
3. Once instructed to do so by the Lockmaster, slowly enter the lock chamber and position the vessel where the Lockmaster indicates.
4. The Lockmaster will lower two lines to each vessel. These lines should be held at both the bow and stern of the boat. They should NOT be tied off to the boat. We recommend that large vessels have on hand at least two lines 25 feet in length (45 feet for house boats).
5. After all boats are secure the Lockmaster will begin to raise or lower the water level inside the lock chamber. The water may have some turbulence during this time, and the boater must be mindful to adjust the lines they are using while the water level begins to change.
6. Once the water level has reached upper or lower pool, the Lockmaster will gather your lines from the top of the lock wall and

instruct you when you can exit the lock chamber.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911**
- Follow all directions given by the Lockmaster during the locking procedure.
- Do not climb the ladders on the lock walls or exit the lock chamber in attempt to find a Lockmaster.
- Remain in your vessel during lockage. No swimming or fishing in the chamber is allowed. Those on canoes, kayaks, paddleboards or jet skis must wear a life jacket while in the lock chamber and remain seated during the locking procedure.
- The lock will not be operated if there is lightning in the area.
- Be aware of the location of the locks and dams as well as other navigation hazards such as shallow areas. Navigation Charts depicting these areas are available from the Kentucky River Authority office and at Locks 1, 2, 3, and 4 for \$25.
- Boaters should use extreme caution while boating near the locks and dams. Restricted Areas (about 500 feet upstream of the dams) and Danger Areas (about 500 feet downstream of the dams) are marked on the navigation charts. The restricted areas upstream of the dams are marked with "Keep Out" and "Danger Dam" buoys. The buoys are subject to shifting during high water, so boaters should observe the restricted area limits even when buoys are not present.
- The dams on the Kentucky River are classified as "low-head dams" which inherently present a greater danger to boaters. Upstream of these dams, it is difficult to determine the dam's existence since it blends in with the horizon. Because there is constant overflow, the velocity of

flow increases quickly as you approach the dam and can pull a boat over the dam quickly.

- Downstream of the dams, the overflow creates a powerful circular hydraulic which can continuously pull a boat underwater and trap it.
- Boaters are also asked to stay out of the approach area to the locks unless intending to lock through. During operation of the locks a rush of water could capsize a small craft.
- To report a spill of hazardous material or other pollution concern please call the Kentucky Division of Water hot line at (800) 928-2380 or (502) 564-2380.
- To report a fish & wildlife violation, please call the Fish and Wildlife hotline at (800) 252-5378.
- To report a navigation hazard, please call the U.S. Coast Guard at (502) 582-6439 or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (502) 315-6692.
- For any of the above situations call the Kentucky River Authority at (502) 564-2866 during weekday hours.
- The Kentucky River Authority wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable recreational use of the Kentucky River.