



Memorial Day! A special ceremony was held on Monday, May 31, 2021, at the Blackwell Cemetery to honor those members of our Armed Forces who paid the ultimate sacrifice.



No water available in Enchanted Rock State natural Area through early July

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (ERSNA) will not have water available for drinking water, personal hygiene or cleaning equipment through July 1 while repairs are being made on the water tower damaged by the severe winter freeze in February. Restrooms will also be closed, although porta-potties and composting toilets will still be available for use.

Visitors should bring sufficient water for their stay at ERSNA. Officials recommend at minimum 32 ounces of water per person per hour of physical activity. Bottled water will be available for sale courtesy of the Friends of Enchanted Rock at the Park Headquarters during office hours. Bottled water is also available 24 hours a day in the vending machines located at the Park Headquarters.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff will also advise incoming campers of the water issue through direct

communications from staff at the park and from its Austin Headquarters.

Reserve day passes in advance online at www.texasstateparks.org or by calling 512-389-8900 to ensure passes are not sold out upon arrival. Spanish-speaking customer service representatives are also available for anyone wanting to book a day pass over the phone.

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area is located at 16710 Ranch Road 965 in Fredricksburg, Texas. It has nearly 11 miles of hiking trails and massive granite dome visitors can explore. For more information, visit the Enchanted Rock Natural Area website at EnchantedRockStateNaturalArea.com — Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock>).

Guests are encouraged to help

park staff maintain the cleanliness of the park by ensuring they pick up after themselves and follow increased

Death of Texans not wearing seat belts spike 16% in 2020

Despite a drop in the number of traffic crashes throughout the year, 2020 saw a spike in the number of fatalities overall and deaths of people in Texas from not wearing a seat belt. That's why TxDOT is reminding everyone that buckling up is the best defense in a crash.

Last year, the simple act of buckling up saved many Texans from death or serious injury in crashes. Unfortunately, in 2020 there was a 16% increase in deaths of unbuckled motorists. There were 1,073 fatalities in 2020 and 926 fatalities in 2019 due to people not wearing seat belts.

Putting on a seat belt only takes a few seconds and doing so reduces the risk of dying by up to 45% for people in the front seat of passenger cars and up to 60%

hygienic practices in all public spaces like park stores.

for people in pickup trucks.

"This past year we have all been reminded of the simple acts we can take to protect our lives and those of our loved ones," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "Wearing a seat belt is the most important step we can take to protect ourselves from serious injury or even death in a traffic crash. Instead of putting yourself and others in danger, remember: buckle up day and night, every rider, every ride."

Research shows pickup truck drivers and passengers continue to lag in seat belt use. Close to half of all pickup drivers killed in crashes last year in Texas were not wearing a seat belt. Additionally, people driving at night wear their seat belt less

often, even though it's a more dangerous time to drive. Last year, 59% of all crashes in which unbuckled drivers or passengers died occurred at night.

From May 24 to June 6, as the summer driving season starts and families head out to celebrate Memorial Day, Texas officers and deputies will step up enforcement of the state's seat belt and child car seat laws. Texas law requires everyone in a vehicle to be properly secured in the front or back seat or face fines and fees up to \$200. Children younger than 8 years old must be restrained in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they are taller than 4 feet 9 inches. If a child isn't secured, the driver faces fines of up to \$250.

From 2002 to 2019, the Click It or Ticket initiative in Texas is estimated to have saved more than 6,000 lives, prevented more than 100,000 serious injuries, and resulted in \$23.6 billion in economic savings, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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