

Safety Beyond the Surface: Recreating on the Guadalupe River Post-Flood

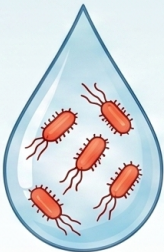
While pathogen contamination from the original 2025 floodwater has likely dissipated, the Guadalupe River remains changed. Safety now depends on current bacterial levels (*E. coli*), recent weather patterns, and significant physical hazards like submerged debris and altered riverbed topography.



The “5-Day Rule” for Rainfall

Avoid swimming for five days after heavy rain to allow bacteria and runoff to dissipate.

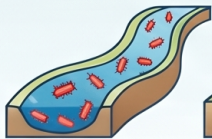
Water Quality & Flow Conditions



E. coli: The Safety Indicator

E. coli is used to indicate fecal contamination and the presence of other disease-causing pathogens.

Flow Levels Impact Risk



Low Flow
Increases bacteria concentration



High Flow
Resuspends contaminated sediment & moves debris

Texas Primary Contact Recreation 1 (PCR1) Standards
(*E. coli* per 100 mL)

126

Geometric Mean

399

Single Sample Limit

Physical Hazards & Channel Shifts



New Scour Hole

The Riverbed Has Shifted

Floods create new scour holes, undercut banks, and sudden drop-offs in previously familiar areas.

“The river may look familiar, but it may not behave the same way.”

Low visibility hides dangerous materials like rebar, and logs in popular swimming holes.

Submerged Debris Hazards

Low visibility hides dangerous materials like rebar, concrete, and logs in popular swimming holes.



Familiarity can create a false sense of security; always check current conditions before entering.