



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
707 NORTH ARMSTRONG PLACE
BOISE, ID 83704-0825
TEL. (208) 327-8639
FAX (208) 327-8595
cdhd.idaho.gov



NEWS

September 22, 2017

Contacts:

Angela Spain or Sarah Correll, CDHD: (208) 375-5211
Graham Freeman, IDEQ: (208) 373-0461

Health Advisory Issued for Blacks Creek Reservoir

Ada County – In cooperation with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Central District Health Department (CDHD) is issuing a health advisory for Blacks Creek Reservoir, located southeast of Boise off of I-84 and Kuna Mora Rd in Ada County. Residents are urged to use caution when recreating or hunting with dogs in or near the water.

Recent samples taken from the reservoir indicate the presence of microcysts and Aphanizomenon, commonly known as blue-green algae. Blue-green algae can produce dangerous toxins and be harmful to people, pets, and livestock. Those with liver or kidney damage are at an increased risk of illness.

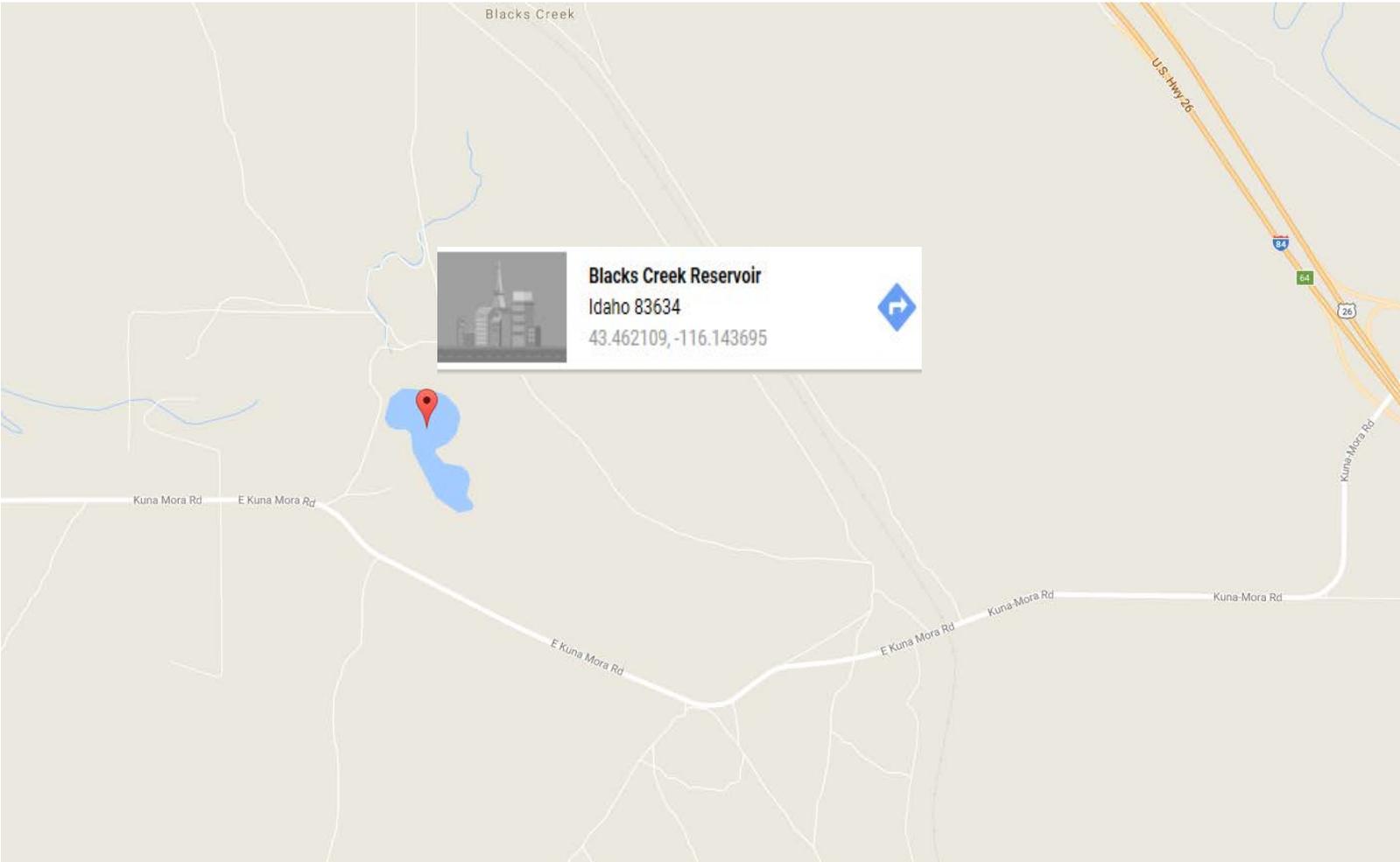
Blue-green algae bacteria are naturally occurring and microscopic. Blue-green algae blooms occur in water with high levels of nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, often during warmer weather months. The blooms are generally green or blue-green in color, and may form thick mats along shorelines. They may look like surface scum, resembling pea soup and can have an unpleasant odor.

Samples taken at the Blacks Creek Reservoir indicate bacteria counts that could make people and animals sick, so everyone should heed these precautions and avoid contact with the water:

- Humans, pets and livestock should not drink the reservoir water.
- Humans and animals should stay out of the reservoir water. Swimming, wading, or other activities with full body contact with the reservoir water should be avoided.
- Fish should be cleaned and rinsed with clean water. Only the fillet portion should be consumed. All other parts should be thrown out.
- Do not allow pets to eat dried algae.
- If reservoir water contacts skin or pet fur, wash with clean potable water as soon as possible.
- Areas of visible algae accumulation should be avoided.

(continued)

People exposed to water with high concentrations of blue-green algae may experience nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, skin irritation, allergic responses, liver damage, or neurotoxic reaction such as tingling fingers and toes. Symptoms in humans are rare but anyone with symptoms should seek medical attention. Boiling or filtering the water will not remove the blue-green algae toxins.



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