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# NEWS

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## **Cyanobacteria Health Advisory Lifted for Lake Cascade**

**Valley Co., ID** — Central District Health Department (CDHD) in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), has lifted a health advisory for Lake Cascade. The advisory has been in place since September 7, 2018, due to the presence of a cyanobacteria harmful algal bloom (HAB). DEQ has been monitoring and sampling water in Lake Cascade and has confirmed that levels have returned to normal, and toxins are below the safety threshold.

While levels have returned to normal, it is possible that other blooms may exist on this waterbody that have not been reported to DEQ or CDHD. No matter the time of year, water users should always use caution around water bodies with visible slime, surface scum or foul odor. High concentrations of toxin-producing cyanobacteria may cause illness to both humans and animals. If you suspect a potential harmful algal bloom, please report it to DEQ at 208-373-0550.

### **More information on cyanobacteria/HABs**

Cyanobacteria occur naturally. Cyanobacteria blooms occur in waters with high levels of nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. Under certain conditions, some types of algae can release toxins into the water that are harmful to people, pets, and livestock. The blooms are generally green, or blue-green, and may form thick mats along shorelines. These may look like a surface scum, resembling pea soup and can have an unpleasant odor or stench.

For more information about harmful algal blooms, including a map of advisories currently in effect throughout Idaho, visit DEQ's website at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/recreation-health-advisories/>

### **Additional Resources:**

CDHD - [Harmful Algal Blooms Webpage](#)  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – [Harmful Algal Blooms Webpage](#)

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