



## Public Health Brief

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Tuesday June 6, 2023

## Caution:

### Blue-Green Algae Toxins Detected in Indian Creek Reservoir

### *Implications for Kids Fishing Day this Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>*

#### My recommendations:

- **Attend the event with your children!**
- **Leave your dogs home.**
- **Minimize contact with the water as much as possible.**
- **Since any toxin is stored in the liver of a fish, gut the fish, wash it carefully, and enjoy your meal!**

The Alpine County Health Department has been working with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the South Tahoe Public Utility District in determining that there are levels of toxin associated with blooms of blue-green algae in Indian Creek Reservoir in Alpine County that are toxic to animals and humans.

Levels at Indian Creek Reservoir are above the 0.8 µg/L "Caution" Action Trigger level established for posting signs at recreational waters for the protection of human health. South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD), who manages the property, posted caution signs at Indian Creek Reservoir to warn lake users to stay away from algae and scum in the water.



**Public Health**  
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Alpine County Health Department, 75-B Diamond Valley Rd., Markleeville, CA 96120  
Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Phone: (530) 694-2281  
District 1: Charles Dobson, District 2: Ron Hames, District 3: Irvin Jim,  
District 4: Terry Woodrow, District 5: David Griffith

Based on the [Cyanobacteria Voluntary Guidelines for Recreational Water](#), we have recommended a lake wide [Caution](#) advisory near the recreational areas listed below.

Location:

- [East Shore Dam near Shack \(ICR-CB01\)](#)
- [Boat Launch \(ICR-CB02\)](#)
- [South End Nearest Entrance to Campground \(ICR-CB04\)](#)

Ongoing testing will be conducted on a regular basis. My prediction (always risky but based on evidence!) is that conditions will get worse before they get better. The rich nutrient environment caused by heavy snow runoff and ash from burn scarred areas around the lake is contributing to this early toxic bloom.

Potential symptoms in dogs following exposure to blue-green algae toxins can include lethargy, difficulty breathing, salivation, vomiting, urination, diarrhea, or convulsions leading to death. The unexplained death of a dog after contact with contaminated water is often a sentinel event which alerts officials to the potential of a toxic bloom. People can experience eye irritation, skin rash, mouth ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea, and cold or flu-like symptoms, with impacts to the liver. Dogs and children are most likely to be affected because of their smaller body size and tendency to stay in the water for longer periods. While there is no antidote for exposures, persons should see their physician and those with pets which may have been exposed should go to their veterinarian for supportive care. Livestock who are drinking contaminated water can also suffer fatal consequences.

Blue-green algae (known as cyanobacteria) can be naturally present in any body of fresh water. It looks like green, blue-green, white or brown scum, foam or mats floating on the water. Warmer air and water temperatures, high nutrient levels, and slow and stagnant water can cause cyanobacteria to multiply at an excessive rate and turn to a harmful algae bloom (HAB). When HABs are present, the algal scum can be a variety of colors such as fluorescent blue, green, white, red or brown. Blooms can have more than one color present and may look like thick paint floating on the water and give off a foul odor. HABs may move to different locations of the lake by wind or wave. If you see signs of a HAB, such as discolored pea-green water, surface scum, floating algae, **stay out of the water.**

The State Water Board and the nine Regional Water Boards (known as the Water Boards), in partnership with other programs and agencies, are actively supporting and coordinating a statewide HAB incident response with many publicly available resources. In 2018, the Water Boards received 190 voluntary reports of HABs from across the state. To learn how to stay safe around HABs, report a bloom and more, visit the CA HABs Portal: <http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/>

***Follow them on twitter: @CaWaterBoards***



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**CAUTION - PRECAUCIÓN**

**Harmful algae may be present in this water.  
Puede haber algas dañinas en estas aguas.**

 <p><b>Stay away from algae and scum in the water.</b> Aléjese de las algas o espuma lamosa en el agua.</p>	 <p><b>Do not let pets and other animals go into or drink the water, or eat scum on the shore.</b> No deje que sus mascotas o animales se metan o beban el agua, o se acerquen a la espuma lamosa.</p>
 <p><b>Keep children away from algae in the water or on the shore.</b> Mantenga a los niños alejados de algas en el agua u orilla del agua.</p>	 <p><b>Do not drink this water or use it for cooking.</b> No beba de esta agua o use para cocinar.</p>
 <p><b>For fish caught here, throw away guts and clean fillets with tap water or bottled water before cooking.</b> Al pescado que pesque aquí, quítele los intestinos y tírelos a la basura. Limpie el filete con agua de la llave o embotellada antes de cocinarlo.</p>	 <p><b>Do not eat shellfish from this water.</b> No coma mariscos de estas aguas.</p>

Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet get sick after going into the water.  
Llame a su médico o veterinario si usted o su mascota se enferman después de meterse al agua.  
For more information go to (Para información) : <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/>  
For local information, contact (Para información local comuníquese con):



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