



News Advisory

Public urged to avoid water at Big Bear Lake sites due to harmful algal blooms

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board are urging recreational water users and dog owners to avoid water contact until further notice while visiting numerous sites around [Big Bear Lake](#) due to a harmful algal bloom (HAB).

Toxins in the blooms were detected in the water near the shore at Mallard Lagoon, Kidd Cove and on the western side of Stanfield Cutoff. See [incident map](#).

Any contact with algal material, discolored water or scum should be avoided across the lake and along the shore. HABs, which appear as bright- to dull-green material near water surfaces or floating and sometimes look like spilled paint, can cause illness in people and animals.

Fish caught at these locations should not be consumed until this advisory is lifted. Fillets from fish caught at other locations around the lake can be consumed if the guts are thrown away and the fillets are cleaned with tap water or bottled water before cooking. This recommendation is based on the potential health risks posed by the algal organisms called cyanobacteria and the level of toxins measured in water samples collected in August.

As the HABs continue to grow, cyanobacteria may form thick algal mats or scum on the water surface and accumulate on the shore. Bloom conditions in the lake can change rapidly, as the flow of surface water and wind may mix, move or concentrate the bloom in different areas.

The bloom is being monitored by the [Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board](#) and partner organizations to inform users when the bloom dissipates. To learn how to stay safe around HABs, report a bloom and more, visit the [California Harmful Algal Bloom](#) portal.

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