



News Advisory

Harmful Algal Bloom Update: Use Caution at Big Bear Lake

Cyanobacteria Can Cause Illness in Humans and Pets

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board urge boaters, recreational water users, and dog owners to use caution while visiting Big Bear Lake due to a harmful algal bloom (HAB) that could cause serious illness.

Lab results of water samples collected on Sept. 19 at several locations on the lake show HABs were detected near the shoreline.

A popular fishing destination, Big Bear Lake is in San Bernardino County off Highway 18 and surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest. Visit the [State Water Board Twitter page](#) to see a map and pictures of the cyanobacteria bloom.

Until further notice, the recommendation is for swimmers to stay away from algae and scum in the water, and to keep children away from algae in the water or on the shore. Do not let dogs go into the water and avoid contact with floating algal material and scum in the water or along the shore. Before consuming fish caught at the lake, throw away guts and clean fillets with tap water. This 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 September. The harmful algal bloom appears as bright to dull-green material near the water surface or floating, sometimes resembling spilled paint.

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 into different areas of the lake. 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 [CA HABs Portal](#).

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