



News Advisory

Harmful Algal Blooms Update at Big Bear Lake

Visitors Advised to Avoid Water Contact with Kidd Cove, Stanfield Cutoff, and North Shore Drive Area

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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 impacted by harmful algal blooms (HABs) until further notice. HAB notifications at Big Bear Lake began in July and are updated throughout the season as new sampling data become available (see [incident map](#) for more information).

Water contact with algal material and discolored water should be avoided across the lake. HABs appear as bright to dull-green material near the water surface or floating, sometimes resembling spilled paint or mats.

Toxins that can cause illness in people and animals were detected in the water at several locations. Due to visual indicators, as well as laboratory results, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board maintains the recommendation of a lake-wide Caution advisory, as well as elevated Danger advisories for Kidd Cove and Stanfield Cutoff and a Warning advisory for North Shore Drive (between Grout Bay and the Solar Observatory). The Warning and Danger advisories recommend no swimming in the water.



The Danger advisory recommends people and their dogs to stay out of the water and avoid contact with floating algal material and scum in the water or along the shores at Kidd Cove and Stanfield Cutoff. 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 October.

As the bloom continues 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 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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