



South Central District Health

1020 Washington St N * Twin Falls ID 83301

Keeping your family & community healthy

May 12, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rene LeBlanc, REHS, Environmental Health Director, 737-5902

District Health Issues Order to Stay Out of Rock Creek Water Due to Fecal Contamination

Due to a temporary power outage at the Twin Falls City Rock Creek Sewage Lift Station on May 12, there was a significant discharge of raw sewage into Rock Creek. The Twin Falls County Commission and South Central District Health have issued a warning to the public to stay out of the water in Rock Creek until clean up efforts and water testing by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) is completed in the next couple of days.

Effective immediately, South Central District Health warns against all water contact and recreational sports (swimming, fishing, rafting, and inner tubing) until further notice. Fecal contamination, as well as commercial sewage, in Rock Creek exceeds surface water quality standards for recreational use designations. The Department of Environmental Quality's Regional Office is working with the Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Twin Falls to correct the problem as quickly as possible and to conduct water testing in order to ensure compliance with Idaho's surface water quality rules (IDAPA 58.01.02).

Fish caught in Rock Creek before this notice was issued may be consumed if cooked completely. If accidental contact with the contaminated water occurs, use soap and warm water to wash your hands and any body part that may have come in contact with the water.

Once IDEQ confirms the water in Rock Creek conforms to standards, the warning will be lifted.

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