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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Advisory Issued For Mormon Reservoir and Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir Because of Harmful Algal Bloom

TWIN FALLS COUNTY, CAMAS COUNTY- The South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are issuing a public health advisory today for both Mormon Reservoir and Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir. The DEQ said results from water testing on July 23rd show levels of a micro-toxin, Microcystin, are now at unhealthy levels because of a recent harmful algal bloom (HAB) in both reservoirs.

The public is advised to take the following precautions:

- Avoid exposure to water in reservoirs experiencing a HAB. Take extra care that children, pets, and livestock are not exposed to the water.
- Do not consume water with a blue-green algae bloom. Neither boiling nor disinfecting removes blue-green algae toxins from water.
- If fish have been exposed to a blue-green algae bloom only consume the fillet portion (remove the fat, organs, and skin). Wash hands after handling. The risk associated with consuming fish caught in waters with a blue-green algae bloom is unknown.

SCPHD Public Health Program Manager Josh Jensen said, “Children and pets are particularly susceptible. Exposure to the toxins produced by cyanobacterial HABs may result in life-threatening liver damage, neurological problems such as muscle spasms, decreased movement, labored breathing, convulsions, and possible death.”

DEQ will continue to monitor water quality until the bloom dissipates and will advise the public when the concern no longer exists.

“We rely heavily on the public to report suspicious looking water bodies to us and we respond by investigating the water body,” said Kiley Mulholland, DEQ Regional Water Quality Manager.

“The [BloomWatch](#) app (available for IOS and Android) is a great tool that anyone can use to report the location of a potential bloom, take photos that we can use as a screening tool, and upload the data and photos to a citizen science database that emails DEQ with an alert.”

More information is available at <https://phd5.idaho.gov/AlgalBlooms/index.htm> and <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/recreation-health-advisories/>

For updates, please visit phd5.idaho.gov or call the Public Health Hotline 866-450-3594.

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