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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Advisory Issued for Mormon Reservoir Because of a Harmful Algal Bloom

Camas County, Idaho - The South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are issuing a public health advisory today for Mormon Reservoir. Recent samples the DEQ took of water in those reservoirs show levels of a cyanotoxin, Microcystin, are now at unhealthy levels because of a recent cyanobacteria harmful algal bloom (HAB) in the reservoir. Cedar Creek Reservoir and Thorn Creek Reservoir are also under public health advisories for HAB's announced on August 11th.

The public is advised to take the following steps to protect their health:

- Avoid exposure to water in reservoirs under a HAB health advisory. Make sure children, pets, and livestock are not exposed to the water.
- Do not drink water with a HAB advisory. Boiling and disinfecting DO NOT remove toxins from water.
- Do not allow pets to eat dried algae
- If fishing in HAB water, remove all fat, skin, and organs before cooking. Toxins are more likely to collect in those tissues. Wash hands after handling.

“These toxins can cause neurological problems, gastrointestinal distress, and irritate areas of your body like your skin, eyes, and ears,” said SCPHD Public Health Program Manager Josh Jensen. “It’s important that you keep family and pets away from the water where there is an active harmful algal bloom.”

HABs are not unusual in warm summer months and typically shrink quickly as the water temperature drops in mid to late fall. The DEQ asks all members of the public to call their [regional office](#) if they see a HAB so a team can take a sample of the water for testing. SCPHD will issue another press release when DEQ tests show these reservoirs are at safe cyanotoxin levels again.

More information is available at <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/recreation-health-advisories/cyanobacteria-harmful-algal-blooms/>

For updates, please visit www.deq.idaho.gov or www.phd5.idaho.gov .