

News release

July 12, 2012

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Health advisory issued for Jackson Creek

Visual observation of scum found on the creek in the area of Central Point

A health advisory is being issued today based on visual observation of scum on Jackson Creek in the area of Central Point in Jackson County. Water monitoring is under way to determine the species and amount of blue-green algae cells present in the creek. This will also help identify whether cells present have potential to produce toxins harmful to humans and animals.

Swallowing or inhaling water droplets and drinking water from the creek should be avoided, as well as skin contact with water through wading or swimming. Animals are also at risk, so pets should be kept away from the creek until monitoring data determines there is no risk of exposure.

People who draw in-home water directly from Jackson Creek are advised to use an alternative water source because private treatment systems are not proven effective in removing algae toxins. However, public drinking water systems can reduce algae toxins through proper filtration and disinfection. If people on public water systems have questions about treatment and testing, they should contact their water supplier.

(more)

Oregon health officials recommend that people who choose to eat fish from waters where algae blooms are present should remove all fat, skin and organs before cooking, because toxins are more likely to collect in these tissues. People are also advised not to eat freshwater clams from Jackson Creek. Crayfish muscle can be eaten, but internal organs and liquid fat should be discarded.

Exposure to toxins can produce symptoms of numbness, tingling and dizziness that can lead to difficulty breathing or heart problems and require immediate medical attention. Symptoms of skin irritation, weakness, diarrhea, nausea, cramps and fainting should also receive medical attention if they persist or worsen. Children and pets are particularly susceptible.

The public will be advised when the concern no longer exists.

For health information, contact the Oregon Health Authority's Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance (HABS) program at 971-673-0400 or visit its [website](#). If outside the Portland area call the toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767.

The HABS program maintains a current list of all health advisories on its website. To find out if an advisory has been issued or lifted for a specific water body, visit the [website](#) and go to "Check current water conditions."

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