



# Media Release

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## Harmful Algal Bloom Found in Lake at Hisey Park in Granger, WA

**Yakima, WA-** Test results demonstrate that there is harmful algal bloom present at the lake in Hilsey Park in Granger. After community members reported algae in the pond, the Washington State Department of Ecology tested water at Hilsey Park located at HWY 12/RR Tracks, Granger, WA 98932. The test results indicate that the lake exceeded the recreational limit for [anatoxin-a](#), a toxin produced by a [harmful algal bloom](#). Anatoxin-a is a rapid acting neurotoxin that can cause various neurologic symptoms. The Yakima Health District has added warning signs throughout the lake to notify individuals of the toxic algae and that the lake is unsafe for people and pets.

Further testing of the lake will be conducted weekly. Signage will remain until there are no visible signs of harmful algal bloom and test results show toxin levels under recreational limits for two consecutive weeks. At this time, community members **should not** swim or water ski in the lake and **not** drink the lake water. Also, keep pets and livestock away from the lake. If individuals are fishing, make sure to clean the fish well and discard guts.

### Signs and Symptoms

Individuals exposed to anatoxin-a can experience neurological symptoms, including numbness, tingling, burning sensation, drowsiness, salivation, and speech disturbances. If individuals experience symptoms, they should contact their healthcare provider.

In animals, illness and death may occur within a few minutes to a few hours after exposure, depending on the size of the animal and amount of toxic bloom consumed. An animal with anatoxin-a toxicosis may exhibit staggering, paralysis, muscle twitching, gasping, convulsions, backward arching of neck in birds, and death. Livestock that drink large amounts of contaminated water and pets that collect scum on their fur then ingest it by licking are at highest risk from

anatoxin-a exposure. If animals experience symptoms, contact their veterinarian immediately.

### **Report a Potential Harmful Algal Bloom**

To report a potential harmful algal bloom, please contact the Yakima Health District at (509) 249-6508 or [YHD.Help.Desk@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:YHD.Help.Desk@co.yakima.wa.us).

### **Additional Information**

[CDC: Harmful Algal Bloom](#)

[CDC: Facts about Cyanobacterial Blooms for Poison Center Professionals](#)

[CDC: Protect Yourself and Pets](#)

[Map of Washington State Toxic Algae](#)

[Identifying a Harmful Algal Bloom](#)

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