



Media Release

For immediate release: July 26, 2024

Contact: Stephanie Ruiz, Communications Specialist

509-941-7364

Harmful Algal Bloom Found in Elton Pond in East Selah

Yakima, WA- Test results from Yakima Health District's Harmful Algae Surveillance Program demonstrate that there is a harmful algal bloom present at Elton Pond in East Selah, alongside Interstate Hwy I-82. The test results indicate that the pond exceeded the recreational limit for [microcystins](#), a potent liver toxin and possible human carcinogen produced by certain types of algae during a [harmful algal bloom](#). The Yakima Health District has added warning signs around the pond to notify individuals of the toxic algae and that the pond is unsafe for people and pets.

Further testing of the pond will be conducted weekly. Signage will remain until there are no visible signs of an algal bloom and test results show toxin levels under recreational limits for two consecutive weeks.

At this time, community members, as well as their pets and livestock, should not swim in the pond and not drink the pond water.

Signs and Symptoms

Individuals who have ingested microcystin toxins can experience various symptoms, such as:

- Bad taste in mouth
- Loss of appetite
- Malaise or lethargy
- Headache or fever
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Blood in urine or dark urine
- Acute hepatitis or jaundice

If individuals experience symptoms, they should contact their healthcare provider.

[In animals, microcystin](#) exposure can cause symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and acute liver failure. Symptoms may take 30 minutes to 24 hours to appear, depending on the size of the animal affected and the amount of the toxin bloom consumed. If animals experience symptoms, contact their veterinarian immediately.

Fishing and Harmful Algal Blooms

Eating fish caught from affected waters is an unknown health risk. It is known that some algae toxins have been found to accumulate in fish tissues, and particularly in the internal organs, such as liver and kidneys. If individuals decide to eat fish caught from waters affected by a blue-green algae bloom, remove the fat, skin, and organs before cooking. Be careful not to cut into the organs. Before cooking or freezing the fish, rinse the fillets with clean water to remove any contaminants from the cleaning process.

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.

Additional Information

[WA DOH: Cyanobacteria Technical Information](#)

[CDC: Harmful Algal Bloom](#)

[CDC: Clinical Signs and Symptoms Caused by Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms](#)

[CDC: Preventing Illnesses Caused by Harmful Algal Blooms](#)

[Map of Washington State Toxic Algae](#)

[Identifying a Harmful Algal Bloom](#)

###