



News Advisory

Danger advisory issued for harmful algal bloom at H.V. Eastman Lake

People and pets should stay out of affected areas until further notice

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MADERA COUNTY – Visitors to H.V. Eastman Lake are advised to avoid water contact in affected areas due to a harmful algal bloom that can make people and animals sick and pose a particular risk to children and dogs.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and Madera County are working with local waterbody managers to coordinate response efforts, including posting advisory signs and monitoring conditions at the lake.

Water samples collected recently found elevated levels of microcystins — toxins produced by harmful algal blooms — in scum accumulating along the shoreline near the east and west boat ramps. Local water managers have posted **Danger** advisory signs at the impacted areas.

Danger

- Stay out of the water in affected areas, including on watercraft.
- Do not let pets or other animals enter or drink the water or go near algae or scum.
- Stay away from algae, scum and cloudy or discolored water.
- Do not eat fish or shellfish caught in affected areas.
- Do not drink the water or use it for cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make it safe.

Harmful algal blooms can appear as green, blue-green or brown discoloration in the water, floating mats or scum, or streaks on the water's surface. Conditions can change quickly as wind and waves move or concentrate a bloom in different areas.

Children and dogs are especially vulnerable because they are more likely to swallow water while swimming or playing. Exposure to harmful algal blooms can cause skin irritation, stomach illness, headaches, weakness and other symptoms.



Visitors should follow posted signs and avoid affected areas until further notice. Current conditions and advisory locations are available on the [California HAB Reports Web Map](#).

Visitors are encouraged to practice [healthy water habits](#) whenever enjoying California lakes, rivers and streams, including avoiding algae and scum, keeping children and pets away from affected water and washing with clean water after water contact. More information is available on the Water Boards' Healthy Water Habits webpage.

Seek medical or veterinary care immediately if you think a person or animal became sick after contact with a harmful algal bloom. Tell the medical or veterinary professional about the possible exposure.

To report a bloom:

- Submit a Bloom Report through the California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal.
- Email CyanoHAB.Reports@waterboards.ca.gov.
- Call the HABs hotline at 1-844-729-6466.
- Contact your county public health department.

For more information, visit the [California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal](#) and California Department of Public Health resource page.