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MEDIA RELEASE

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Utah County Algal Bloom Advisories Increased in 2 More Water Bodies

Algal Bloom Advisories Increase from CAUTION to WARNING

PROVO, UT – Utah County Health Department (UCHD) officials have updated advisories related to the algal bloom in Utah County waterbodies. Changes in advisories are based on recent testing results and monitoring, and are as follows:

Utah Lake

- American Fork Marina: changed from a CAUTION to WARNING advisory
- Sandy Beach: remains at WARNING advisory
- Saratoga Springs Marina: remains at WARNING advisory
- Lincoln Beach: remains CLOSED
- All other areas remain at a CAUTION advisory

Payson Lakes

- McKellen Lake: changed from a CAUTION to WARNING advisory
- Box Lake: remains at a WARNING advisory
- Big East Lake: remains at a WARNING advisory

UCHD last increased advisories in 3 water bodies on August 22nd. Utah County Health Department along with Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will continue to monitor and test bodies of water showing signs of algal blooms.

In areas with a CAUTION advisory, swimming and other water activities are allowed, however, recreators should stay out of areas of scum. In areas with a WARNING advisory, boating activities are allowed but recreators should avoid areas of scum. Pets and livestock should not be in or drink the water at any advisory level.

Although algae are a natural part of many freshwater ecosystems, under the right conditions they can proliferate to create large algal blooms. These blooms can contain harmful cyanobacteria, a type of bacteria (often referred to as blue-green algae) that produces toxins that can pose risks to humans, wildlife, domestic animals and fish.

Symptoms of cyanotoxin poisoning include headache, fever, diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, and sometimes allergic-like reactions from the skin. For concerns about possible human exposure, call the Utah Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222, or your physician. For concerns about possible exposure to animals; contact local veterinarian.

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Updates are available at: <http://deq.utah.gov/locations/U/utahlake/algal-bloom.htm>

Utah County has an alert system. For updates on lake conditions, go to alerts.utahcounty.gov and sign up for an account. After signing up, select the method of contact, create a profile, and select a location. Then choose the alert subscription for “Utah Lake” under “Utah County Alerts.”

General information about harmful algal blooms is available from DEQ at <http://www.deq.utah.gov/Pollutants/H/harmfulalgalblooms/index.htm>

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