

## SAFETY INFORMATION



# HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Harmful algae blooms occur from both natural processes and human activities, but human activities are significantly increasing the frequency, spread, and toxicity of harmful algae blooms.

Certain types of blue-green algae that grow in freshwater lakes and streams can release chemicals that are harmful to humans and animals.

Inland lakes throughout California have had increasingly frequent occurrences of harmful algae blooms, including Lake Henshaw which is upstream of the Rincon Reservation.

### Causes of Freshwater Algal Blooms

#### Increased Nutrients to Freshwater

Often from animal manure and chemical fertilizers which allow an algae bloom to grow out of control

#### Warmer Water

Allows cyanobacteria to grow faster than other less harmful algae species

#### Still or Stagnant Water

Freshwater may not mix, which causes warm water to stay on the surface and cooler water to stay at deeper depths

## CAUTION

PAY ATTENTION TO POSTED WARNING SIGNS

### WARNING

#### Avoid Harmful Blue-green Algae Blooms

while swimming, fishing and boating



People and animals can have severe reactions to toxic algae, including stomach upset, neurological damage, or even death.

If you think you might have been exposed or develop symptoms, contact your healthcare provider or Poison Control Center.

### Signs of Harmful Algal Blooms

#### Different Water Colors

Green, blue, red or brown, scum on the surface of the water

#### Water Surface

Foam, scum, or paint-like streaks on the water surface

#### Smell

As the bloom dies off it may smell like rotting plants

## ANIMAL SAFETY ALERT

Pets are also at risk of poisoning from swimming, drinking the water, eating dead fish and other animals found near a bloom, and licking algae or scum from their fur after swimming.

Take action if your pets or livestock go near or into water with a cyanobacterial bloom. Immediately wash them off with clean water to keep them from licking cyanobacteria off their fur.

Call a veterinarian if your animal shows any signs of sickness within a day or so after being in contact with water.

For more information: Contact Rincon Government Center at 760.749.1051.