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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Advisory Issued for Harmful Algal Bloom at Cedar Creek Reservoir

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO - South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) is issuing a public health advisory for Cedar Creek Reservoir, also known as Roseworth Reservoir, after recent testing from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) shows levels of a cyanotoxin, Microcystin, are now at unhealthy levels in the reservoir. Increased levels of this toxin are caused by a toxin-producing cyanobacteria. Exposure to this toxin can be harmful to people, pets, and livestock.

When recreating at Cedar Creek Reservoir the public is advised to take the following steps to protect their health:

- Avoid exposure to water in reservoirs under a HAB health advisory. Make sure children, pets, and livestock are not exposed to the water.
- Do not drink water with a HAB advisory. Boiling and disinfecting DO NOT remove toxins from water.
- Do not allow pets to eat dried algae
- If you choose to eat fish from HAB water, remove all fat, skin, and organs before cooking. Toxins are more likely to collect in those tissues. Wash hands after handling.

“This is the second advisory we’ve issued in our region,” said Josh Jensen, SCPHD Environmental Health Director. “Toxins from HABs can be harmful to humans as well as pets, so we urge you to check any reservoir you want to recreate in before you, or your pets, enter the water,”

The second advisory was issued in July for Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir, which remains in effect.

HABs are not unusual in warm summer months and typically shrink quickly as the water temperature drops in mid to late fall. SCPHD will issue another press release when DEQ tests show toxin levels in this reservoir are at safe levels again.

More information is available at:

- <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/environmental-health/idaho-recreational-waters>
- <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/cyanobacteria-harmful-algal-blooms/>