

NEWS / OUTDOORS



File photo

Dangerous toxins force closure of Vernal reservoir


By Amy Joi O'Donoghue, KSL | Posted - Aug 13th, 2019 @ 5:16pm

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VERNAL — Dangerous toxins at nearly 11 times the recreation health standard forced the closure of the Matt Warner Reservoir near Vernal on Tuesday.

The Tri-County Health Department issued a danger advisory Tuesday after receiving lab data for water samples collected Aug. 6 at the boat ramp.

water and hot temperatures. Samples collected at this waterbody contained microcystin concentrations and anatoxin-a.



TriCounty Health Department

11 hours ago

DANGER

CLOSED

due to toxic algae

**KEEP OUT
OF WATER**



Date Posted:

Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your animals have sudden or unexplained sickness or signs of poisoning.
Learn more: habs.utah.gov

Utah Poison Control Center
(800) 222-1222

Report new algae blooms to the
Department of Environmental Quality:
(801) 536-4123

Call your local health department:
435-247-1160

This sign was posted at Matt Warner Reservoir on Aug. 12, 2019. The Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) on MW crossed the threshold from Warning to Danger. This means the lake is closed to the public. No swimming. No boating. No fishing. DWR is keeping the area open to camping--just stay out of the water.

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Microcystin is one of the most widespread in the cyanobacteria family and is a potent liver toxin and possible carcinogen.

Testing at boat ramps showed cell counts of more than 109 million per milliliter at the surface and at 1.8 million at elbow depth.

Tri-County Health Department officials say swimming, boating or fishing is prohibited at the reservoir until further notice.

Tri-County Health Department Water Summary:

Main Boat Ramp Surface sample

Sample Date: August 6, 2019

Microcystin: >5 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

Anatoxin-a: 0.107 $\mu\text{g/L}$

Cell Counts: 109,546,842 cells per milliliter (cells/mL)

Main Boat Ramp Elbow-depth integrated composite sample

Sample Date: August 6, 2019

Microcystin: 4.3 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

Anatoxin-a: 0.145 $\mu\text{g/L}$

Cell Counts: 1,833,214 cells per milliliter (cells/mL)

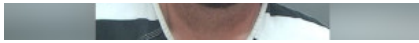
Amy Joi O'Donoghue



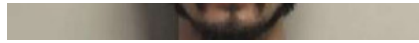
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