

NEWS RELEASE



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DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 09/18/07 - 11:30 AM

NATURE OF STORY: **SILTCOOS LAKE**

LOCATION: Siltcoos Lake (located off Highway 101 at the Lane and Douglas County Line)

DETAILS:

The Lane County Sheriff's Office was made aware of the Central Emergency Notification System (CENS) notification (below) that was sent out to residents in the Siltcoos Lake area last night.

This message is from Sheldon Meyer, Mayor of Dunes City and this is an emergency health alert. The Siltcoos Lake has been polluted with a toxic blue-green algae.

There should be no consumption of the water by drinking or bathing. No pets or children should have contact with Siltcoos Lake water.

This blue-green algae is a neurotoxin and will not be affected by boiling the water or by chlorine treatment.

Dunes City and the State Health Department are monitoring this problem and you will be notified when the water is safe. The Department of Human Services will be doing the follow-up from this point on and will be notifying Dunes City, the Register Guard, Siuslaw News, KCST and local television channels.

A sample of the lake water has been submitted to the State for testing. It could be a few days before the results of that testing are known.

Dunes City has done an independent test of the water and those results prompted the message above. They are erring on the side of caution and treating the situation as if the algae bloom is toxic.

The Sheriff's Office has been in contact with the Oregon Marine Board. Signs have been posted at the lake notifying the public of the situation. However, the lake remains open to boaters at this time.

The Sheriff's Office will be working with Dunes City, Douglas County, and the State. More information will be shared with the public as it becomes available.

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For additional information contact: Sgt. Clint Riley 682-3698

Prepared by: Sgt. Clint Riley