HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS IN PRIVATE WATER BODIES

WHO TO CALL?

Harmful algal blooms, or HABs, are dense growths of algae with the potential for creating toxins that cause a risk to human and animal health. Children and pets are most at risk while engaging in recreation in the water. Adults with compromised immune systems are also more susceptible to illness from exposure. The list below includes contact information that can be helpful if you come into contact with HABs at your local, private water body.

General info or to report a bloom
For general questions, more information, or to report water discoloration or scum encountered at a privately owned or managed water body, call the SBEAP Hotline, 800-578-8898, or email sbeap@ksu.edu.

Human exposure
If you have been exposed and think you may have symptoms caused by harmful algae, call your healthcare provider or the poison control center hotline, 1-800-222-1222. Then, report the incident to KDHE Epidemiology online or by calling 877-427-7317.

Animal exposure
Rinse your pets immediately and call your veterinarian. Then call the K-State Veterinary Health Center — 785-532-5690 for small animals and 785-532-5700 for equine or livestock. You can also call the Pet Poison Helpline at 1-855-764-7661. Make sure to report the incident to KDHE Epidemiology online or by calling 877-427-7317.

Testing
Water samples may be sent to the K-State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for testing. For more information, call 866-512-5650 or email clientcare@vet.k-state.edu.

Report a human or pet health incident
Contact your healthcare provider or veterinarian, then report the incident to KDHE Epidemiology online, by calling 877-427-7317 or by emailing KDHE.EpiHotline@ks.gov.

Visit www.sbeap.org/water-quality/harmful-algal-blooms for downloadable resources, signage, details about preventive measures and a full list of laboratory testing contact information.