



A RESOURCE FOR HEALTHY LIVING FROM THE
GALLATIN CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HUMAN SERVICES • 406.582.3100, hs@gallatin.mt.gov
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH • 406.582.3120, ehs@gallatin.mt.gov
WIC • 406.582.3115, wic@gallatin.mt.gov

healthygallatin.org

For more information, contact:

Lori Christenson, Gallatin City-County Health Department, 406-582-3120

**Hannah Riedl, Watershed Protection Section, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
(406) 406-444 - 0549**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, July 10, 2020

Sundance Springs Subdivision Pond Toxic Algal Bloom

In conjunction with the Sundance Springs Subdivision Home Owners Association, the Gallatin City-County Health Department (GCCHD) is closing the Sundance Springs Subdivision Pond to recreation at this time. The health department has conducted field monitoring at the pond and identified the presence of a toxic algal bloom. A recent dog death at the pond may have also been caused by the presence of an algal toxin. The department will be doing further confirmation sampling at the pond with guidance from Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the EPA. The privately-owned pond is located just east of the junction of E Graf Street and Rain Roper Drive and is adjacent to the Sourdough Trail System.

The identified algal toxin poses a threat to people, pets and livestock. Ingestion or prolonged contact with the algal bloom may result in illness, with signs such as muscle twitching, staggering, convulsions, paralysis and death. Livestock that drink large amounts of contaminate water and pets that collect scum on their fur then ingest it by licking are at highest risk from toxin exposure. Toxin exposure can occur in humans from recreational activities where water might be ingested such as swimming, kayaking, and paddle boarding.

Health experts recommend that people not swim or take part in activities likely to result in exposure to the toxin in the pond, and that pets and livestock be kept away from entering the water. If you (or your pets/livestock) have ingested water from the pond and are experiencing these symptoms, you should seek medical (or veterinary) attention immediately.

Further notifications will be provided by GCCHD should conditions change. If you have questions or concerns please call Gallatin City-County Health Department, Environmental Health Services at 582-3120 or email EHS@gallatin.mt.gov.

For additional resources or information you can also visit:

Montana DEQ Harmful Algal Bloom: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/Epidemiology/hab>