

EFFECTS OF BLUE GREEN ALGAE ON DRINKING WATER



Blue green algae is a water quality concern; you should avoid bodily contact, do not eat fish that have been swimming in it, and definitely do not drink it. Water agencies across the United States and Canada are very concerned with this issue. Lake Erie has seen large, harmful algae blooms with increasing frequency, impacting major water systems there. The city of Toledo, Ohio had to shut down the water system to 400,000 customers in August of 2014. Toledo now has an early warning system for blue green algae conditions (shown lower left), very similar to our own Forest Service fire danger warning system.

At the end of August, there was a very pronounced bloom of blue green algae in the Tahoe Keys. It is easily recognizable, as it turns clear water into what looks like pea soup. This can sometimes even happen overnight. If you have ever been to Big Bear Lake or Clear Lake during late summer, you have probably seen the entire lake looking murky green.

CITY OF TOLEDO WATER QUALITY GAUGE



- CLEAR:** Less than 5 ppb in the intake crib & non-detect in tap water.
- WATCH:** Greater than or equal to 5 ppb in the intake crib & non-detect in tap water.
- CAUTION:** Microcystin has been detected in tap water, but test results do not indicate the need to issue an advisory. Additional testing and sampling is under way and water treatment has been accelerated.
- PRE-SCHOOL ADVISORY:** **DO NOT DRINK** for children 5 and younger. Tap Water tests greater than 0.3 and not exceeding 1.6 ppb.
- DO NOT DRINK:** **DO NOT DRINK.** Tap water tests greater than 1.6 ppb.

The Tahoe Keys are separated from Lake Tahoe by a series of barriers, which protect the Lake to a certain extent. The Keys, however, are an optimum breeding ground for blue green algae, being shallow and therefore very warm, with poor circulation and heavy nutrient loading.

So, is there a risk of harmful algae blooms in our drinking water that comes from Lake Tahoe? The short answer is that algae is not a threat. None of these conditions exist where IVGID's water intake is located, in deeper water near Crystal Bay. IVGID also uses Ozone for water disinfection, which is remarkably effective for oxidizing harmful bacteria.

In summary, the threat to IVGID's water supply is very close to zero and, even if some blue green algae got out of the Tahoe Keys and into Lake Tahoe, it would be substantially diluted if it ever reached our end of the lake, and the last remaining molecules would be destroyed by our water treatment system.



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- See meter reads right after they are completed
- View statements for tax preparation
- Pay by credit card or eCheck (subject to service fee)
- Change your mailing address & contact phone #'s
- Check your current balance

NLTFPD FIRE HYDRANT TESTING

The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) will be flow testing 200+ fire hydrants during September and October. There will be 4 different crews and testing 7 days a week.

There are two problems customers may encounter:

- Water hammer(s)
- Clarity issues

Water hammers and clarity issues will be temporary. If you have clarity issues the water is safe to drink and will clear up in a few hours or by the next day.

**HHW & E-WASTE DROP-OFF
TUESDAY & THURSDAY 3-5 PM
THE SITE WILL BE CLOSED
DURING SEVERE WEATHER
CONTACT WASTE NOT (775) 832-1284
OR EMAIL WASTENOT@IVGID.ORG**

REMEMBER TO TURN OFF YOUR WATER EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE!

Visit the winterization information on our website: www.yourtahoeplace.com/public-works/water/winterization



MAKE TRASH DAY HASSLE FREE

What if it were possible to put your trash out when you want? It is!

Install a bear shed and enjoy a hassle-free trash day. Not only will it provide you with convenient trash containment when you need it, a properly latching bear shed can protect your home from damage, your neighborhood from litter and protect wildlife.

Another advantage is your trash rate decreases to only \$21.50 per month - the lowest rate available for trash service.

Right now, you can also take advantage of a \$150 rebate from IVGID for residential properties which install an approved bear shed, or for commercial properties that install an approved wildlife enclosure.

The rebate application is available on our website: www.yourtahoeplace.com/public-works/waste-not/bear-wildlife-awareness/bear-box-placement

For more information and assistance, please call IVGID Waste Not at (775) 832-1284, or email us at wastenot@ivgid.org. We're here to help.