



Panhandle Health District

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Panhandle Health District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH ADVISORY: Oil Sheen on St. Joe River Prompts Closure of Aqua Park

ST. MARIES, ID – Monday morning, the St. Maries Fire Protection District responded to a call regarding a heavy oil sheen along the St. Joe River near Aqua Park in St. Maries. The oil sheen is visible over 1.5 miles of the St. Joe River. At this time, Aqua Park's beach and public boat launch are most impacted. The boat launch and park have been shut down until further notice. In addition, boat traffic in these areas is restricted.

"As a precaution, we are asking people to avoid the area," said Fire Chief Larry Naccarato. "Please avoid any contact with nearby water."

Absorbent booms have been placed in four locations along the St. Joe River to minimize any further spread. Authorities are still investigating the origin of the sheen and will continue to monitor the conditions. Local law enforcement, Panhandle Health District, The Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are working together to assess the situation and determine cleanup efforts.

The St. Maries Fire Protection District will provide updates as available. If residents have any further information in regards to the origin of the oil sheen, please call the St. Maries Police Department at (208) 245-5102.

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