



# Panhandle Health District

*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Panhandle Health District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 3, 2015

**Contact:** Melanie Collett  
(208) 415-5108

## **UPDATE: St. Joe River and Aqua Park Reopened for Camping and Boating**

**ST. MARIES, ID** – After four days of oil cleanup efforts, the St. Maries Fire Protection District has reopened Aqua Park’s boat launch, beach and the St. Joe River. Swimming at the park is not recommended at this time. Crews will continue to monitor conditions closely through the weekend and until any pockets of oil have cleared.

“Our community’s safety and environmental protection is our top priority. We are happy to see the oil sheen has dissipated significantly and we will continue to monitor the water to ensure safety,” said St. Maries Fire Protection District Chief, Larry Naccarato. “Community and regional agencies worked together to expedite the cleanup in time for Labor Day Weekend and Paul Bunyan Days beginning Friday.”

Floating booms were used along the river to absorb oil residue that was [reported](#) in the water and along the beach last Monday. The River water is now safe for boat traffic, but public health authorities do not recommend swimming at Aqua Park at this time. Signs have been posted along the beach to warn campers of swimming risks and will be updated as necessary.

The source of the oil has not yet been identified, but was likely motor oil or grease. If anyone saw any suspicious activity near Aqua Park on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, please call the St. Maries Police Department at (208) 245-5102.

###