

November 21, 2016

JOINT PRESS RELEASE: OKALOOSA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE OF SEWAGE SPILL WITH HEALTH ADVISORY



Update #1: Intersection of Bayshore Drive and Palm Boulevard (Shalimar, Florida)

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Okaloosa County, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa) is issuing a health advisory for the following bodies of water in Okaloosa County:

- Lake Vivien (also known as Lake Clyde)
- Choctawhatchee Bay in Shalimar

Okaloosa County Water and Sewer (OCWS) has reported a sewage spill due to an overflow of a wastewater manhole located at the intersection of Bayshore Drive and Palm Boulevard in Shalimar, Florida. An estimated 2,800-gallon sewage spill has occurred, and the wastewater overflowed into a storm drain that discharges into Lake Vivian. OCWS representatives have reported that the spill has now been contained and cleanup actions have been completed. Sewage did not get into any drinking water sources, and water available through the public water system is safe to drink. Water sampling and testing will be conducted in the area. Until further information is known regarding contamination of the waterway, people in the area are urged to take precautions when in contact with the affected bodies of water.

Waters contaminated with wastewater overflow present several health hazards to humans and may contain untreated human sewage with microbes that could cause gastrointestinal and other diseases. Anyone who comes into contact with the affected waterways should wash thoroughly, especially before eating or drinking. Children and older adults, as well as people with weakened immune systems, are particularly vulnerable to disease. For more information about the potential health effects of wastewater overflow, residents and visitors are encouraged to contact DOH-Okaloosa at 850-833-9247 or www.HealthyOkaloosa.com.

Okaloosa County Water and Sewer (OCWS) has notified the proper authorities. This notice is in response to Emergency Rule 62ER16-1: Public Notice of Pollution.

Please stay tuned to local news updates, and questions or concerns may be directed to the 311 Citizens Information Line. Visit Okaloosa County website at www.okaloosaf1.com and follow us on Facebook (Okaloosa County Department Public Safety) and Twitter @OKALOOSAEOC. Department of Water and Sewer direct link: www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/ws/home. Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County direct link: www.healthyokaloosa.com.

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