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MARTIN LAKE UNDER ADVISORY AFTER RAW SEWAGE RELEASE
City of Springfield reports raw sewage release due to flooding from Hurricane Sally



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Panama City, Fla. –The City of Springfield is a reporting release of **5,000 gallons raw sewage into Lake Martin**. This is due to flooding from Hurricane Sally. Clean up actions are complete.

The Florida Department of Health in Bay County (DOH-Bay) **advises against swimming in Martin Lake until further notice**. The **City of Springfield will test** the water and share results with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Bay County Health Department. **Once levels are safe, the advisory will be lifted**.

Sewage contamination of water can expose swimmers to **intestinal viruses, bacteria, and parasites**. Swimming in the water may cause **symptoms like food poisoning** with vomiting and diarrhea. **Infection is possible in open cuts and wounds** that come in contact with the water.

DOH-Bay recommends the following precautions to help prevent illness from flood waters:

- **Basic hygiene is critical.** Wash your hands with soap and water, especially before preparing or eating food, after toilet use, after changing a soiled diaper, after participating in flood cleanup activities and after handling articles contaminated with flood water or sewage.
- **Avoid eating or drinking anything that has been contaminated with flood waters.**
- **Do not wade through standing water.** If you do, wash your body and put on clean clothes.
- **Avoid contact with flood waters**, especially if you have open cuts or sores.
 - If you have any open cuts or sores and come in contact with flood waters, wash the area well with soap to prevent infection. If a wound develops redness, swelling or drainage, seek immediate medical attention.
 - Residents who sustain lacerations and/or puncture wounds and have not had a tetanus vaccination within the past five years will need a tetanus booster.

For more information, contact the DOH-Bay's Environmental Health at 850-481-4806 or visit Bay.FloridaHealth.gov.

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