

# Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

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October 25, 2016

## INTERIM HEALTH ADVISORY FOR EATING CATFISH FROM LAKE EVANS

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is issuing the following interim advice based on a preliminary review of data that indicates elevated levels of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in catfish caught from Lake Evans in the City of Riverside. The interim advisory recommends that people should not consume catfish from the lake.

PCBs are industrial chemicals that were used in electrical equipment. PCB manufacturing in the United States stopped in the late 1970s; however, they can still be found in the environment from spills, leaks or improper disposal. PCBs can build up in the body. They can affect the nervous system and can cause cancer and other health effects.

This advisory is being issued as part of ongoing efforts by the state to measure chemicals in California fish. OEHHA plans to develop a full advisory for Lake Evans when testing for other species of fish has been completed. Although other species of fish collected from Lake Evans that were analyzed for PCBs to date did not show elevated levels, not all species have been tested.

For other species of fish found in Lake Evans, until a full advisory is developed, OEHHA recommends that individuals follow the advice offered in its advisory for eating fish from California's lakes and reservoirs without site-specific advice, which is available at:

<http://oehha.ca.gov/advisories/statewide-advisory-eating-fish-californias-lakes-and-reservoirs-without-site-specific>.

OEHHA is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. For more information, contact OEHHA at (916) 324-7572 or visit OEHHA's website at [www.oehha.ca.gov/fish](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/fish).

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California Environmental Protection Agency

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