

Beach Closed for Red Tide

Due to results from testing of water samples confirming the presence “Karenia Brevis” (the algae that causes red tide) Lake Worth staff have decided to proceed with caution and Lake Worth Beach will remain closed until further notice. All Casino building tenants and Benny’s on the Beach will remain open at this time.

Testing conducted at 11 sites from the Palm Beach Inlet north to Jupiter Inlet show very low to medium concentrations of Karenia Brevis. The highest concentrations occurred at the Jupiter Inlet. The samples

were taken Sunday and with winds, currents and tides, the current conditions may not be reflected by these results. A forecast from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that conditions could remain in the medium range through Friday in Palm Beach County. The forecast suggests that the medium concentration of Red Tide can affect those with chronic respiratory issues and can cause mild symptoms to everyone else.

Some people experience respiratory irritation (coughing, sneezing, tearing

and an itchy throat) when the Florida red tide organism is present and winds blow onshore. The Florida Department of Health advises people with severe or chronic respiratory conditions, such as emphysema or asthma, to avoid red tide areas.

The City of Lake Worth will continue to abide by the recommendations of County and State agencies regarding responding to the Red Tide.

Contact Ben Kerr, City of Lake Worth Public Information Officer, with any questions or comments.



With the upper parking lot at Lake Worth Beach, lifeguards circulated through the lower lot passing handouts explaining the conditions to would be beachgoers. Many turned back and found something else to do for the day, while a few decided to test the airborne contaminants for themselves.

Use Caution When Red Tide Present

The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County reminds residents and visitors to use caution when on the beach or in waters with high concentrations of red tide. Protect your family and pets by staying away from affected areas until the blooms move further offshore or they go away. Red tide is a naturally occurring algae that has been documented along Florida’s Gulf Coast since the 1840s and occurs nearly every year. Because the blooms are patchy, other local beaches may be okay to visit.

The department encourages everyone to review these tips to stay safe while enjoying Florida’s beaches:

- In Florida, red tide is caused by a naturally occurring microscopic alga called *Karenia brevis*.
- Red tide algal blooms can change rapidly, staying in one place for months or just a few days

or weeks.

- Symptoms from breathing red tide usually include coughing, sneezing and watery eyes.

For most people, symptoms are temporary and typically go away when the person leaves the area. Wearing a particle filter mask may lessen the effects, and over-the-counter antihistamines decrease symptoms.

- People with chronic respiratory problems, like asthma, should avoid areas with active red tides. People with symptoms that persist should seek medical attention.

- Pet owners are advised that red tide poses a risk to animals brought to the beach. Red tide can affect animals if they drink affected water, lick their wet paws or fur, or breath marine aerosols.

- Residents sensitive to red tide and living in beach areas affected by blooms are advised to close windows and run

the air conditioner (making sure that the AC filter is maintained according to the manufacturer’s specifications).

- Seafood, including shellfish, in restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, and markets is safe to eat. Cooked shellfish (oysters, clams, mussels) thoroughly to prevent exposure to *Vibrio vulnificus*. Shellfish should not be harvested or eaten from areas with active red tide.

Beachgoers are encouraged to check conditions before they go to the beach as conditions can change daily.

For the latest Red Tide Status Reports: MyFWC.com/RedTide.

For Red tide questions and/or health concerns contact Florida Poison Control Information Center at 1-800-222-1222.

Current Beach Conditions: mote.org/beaches

Report Fish Kills: 800-6360511 (FWC)

PBSO Celebrates 10 Years Serving Lake Worth

It hardly seems like it has been ten years since the Lake Worth Police Department merged with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office.

At the time, all but one or two of the Lake Worth officers were hired by PBSO and stayed in PBSO District 14 performing the duties of law enforcement in an area they were familiar with. Residents also appreciated

having familiar officers, even with a different color uniform.

Monday, the celebration of ten years took place at District 14 headquarters with Sheriff Richard Bradshaw in attendance.

Bradshaw grew up in Lake Worth and expressed the special place in his heart the city has always held.

When Bradshaw was in High School he participated

in Government Take Over Day, acting as, you guessed it, Police Chief of Lake Worth.

Bradshaw talked about progress made in Lake Worth through the years.

Lake Worth Mayor Pam Triolo said the City has enacted over 140 Ordinances since the merger to give PBSO the ability to enforce laws and protect the citizens of Lake Worth.



Celebrating ten years. Commissioner Herman Robinson, Vice Mayor Pro-tem Scott Maxwell, Sheriff Rick Bradshaw and Mayor Pam Triolo get together at District 14 headquarters during the celebration of the tenth anniversary of PBSO providing law enforcement services to the City of Lake Worth.

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