

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 29, 2005

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Precautionary Alert Issued for Escambia County Beaches

Residents, Visitors Should Not Swim or Fish in Waterways and Beaches

PENSACOLA, FL -- Effective immediately, the Escambia County Health Department is issuing health alerts for all swimming and fishing areas in Escambia County. Hurricane damage and flooding may contribute to sanitary sewer overflows, potentially contaminating local swimming areas with water-borne disease pathogens. Beach water contact may pose an increased risk of disease - individuals with wounds or an immune system deficiency are particularly susceptible. There may also be debris on beaches and in water that could cause injury. Therefore, as a precaution, the health department advises residents and visitors not to swim in Escambia County beaches until a bacteriological survey shows that the beaches are safe and the county beach managers can assess the debris/injury potential.

The Escambia County Health Department will assess the safety of bathing areas and notify the public when regularly monitored areas are safe for swimming and fishing.

For more information, please view our internet website at [www.doh.state.fl.us <https://mail.doh.state.fl.us/exchange/Molly_Payne-Hardin/Inbox/Fw:%20Beach%20Press%20Release%20for%20Hurricane%20IF%20NEEDED-2.EML/Hurricane%20Katrina%20Alert.doc/C58EA28C-18C0-4a97-9AF2-036E93DDAFB3/www.doh.state.fl.us>](https://mail.doh.state.fl.us/exchange/Molly_Payne-Hardin/Inbox/Fw:%20Beach%20Press%20Release%20for%20Hurricane%20IF%20NEEDED-2.EML/Hurricane%20Katrina%20Alert.doc/C58EA28C-18C0-4a97-9AF2-036E93DDAFB3/www.doh.state.fl.us) and select Beach Water Quality from the pull down menu, or contact the Escambia County Health Department, telephone (850) 595-6784.

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