

7/2/18-THE HEAT IS TAKING A TOLL ON CENTRAL NEW YORK. LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS HAD A BUSY DAY YESTERDAY AS THEY HANDLED MULTIPLE CALLS FOR HEAT RELATED INCIDENTS. LUCKILY, NONE OF THEM HAVE BEEN SERIOUS SO FAR. FORECASTERS SAY ANOTHER DAY OF OPPRESSIVE HEAT IS ON THE WAY, AND WE CAN EXPECT A REPEAT OF YESTERDAY'S SWELTERING CONDITIONS, WITH TEMPERATURES SOARING INTO THE UPPER NINETIES. OFFICIALS SAY RESIDENTS SHOULD CONTINUE TAKING PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE HEAT.

7/2/18-STATE OFFICIALS ARE KEEPING AN EYE ON ANOTHER POTENTIAL PROBLEM CAUSED BY THE HEAT- TOXIC ALGAE BLOOMS. SO FAR MONITORS HAVEN'T DETECTED ANY PROBLEMS IN HERKIMER AND ONEIDA COUNTIES, BUT THE NUMBER OF LOCATIONS REPORTING BLOOMS HAS NEARLY DOUBLED IN THE PAST WEEK. THE SWIRLING GREEN CLOUDS OF ALGAE DEVELOP WHEN WARM WEATHER AND EXCESSIVE NUTRIENTS ALLOW THE ORGANISMS TO GROW OUT OF CONTROL. EVEN MINOR CONTACT WITH THE BLOOMS CAN PRODUCE NAUSEA, VOMITING, RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS, AND POTENTIAL LIVER DAMAGE.

7/3/18-NEW YORK SET A NEW HIGH FOR ELECTRICAL USAGE YESTERDAY. OFFICIALS SAY THE ONGOING HEAT WAVE SENT POWER DEMAND UP TO 33 MEGAWATTS, THE HIGHEST POINT IT'S HIT THIS YEAR AND JUST ONE MEGAWATT SHORT OF THE RECORD SET BACK IN 2013. BUT SO FAR THE GRID HAS HELD UP. OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CLOSELY MONITORING ELECTRICAL USAGE ACROSS THE STATE AND ACTIVATED THE EMERGENCY DEMAND RESPONSE SYSTEM YESTERDAY. THAT PROGRAM PAYS LARGE POWER USERS TO ROLL BACK THEIR DEMANDS, FREEING UP MORE POWER FOR THE REST OF THE GRID.

7/13/18-THE AREA'S ABNORMALLY DRY CONDITIONS ARE STARTING TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON LOCAL LAKES. BOTH DELTA LAKE IN ROME AND THE HINCKLEY RESERVOIR IN HERKIMER COUNTY HAVE SEEN A STEADY DECLINE IN THEIR WATER LEVELS. THAT'S STARTING TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR BOATERS WHO HAVE TO NAVIGATE POTENTIAL HAZARDS EXPOSED BY THE LOWER WATER LEVELS. THE AREA IS CURRENTLY MORE THAN THREE INCHES UNDER IT'S AVERAGE RAINFALL LEVELS FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR. UNLESS RAIN SHOWS UP SOON WE'LL OFFICIALLY BE IN A DROUGHT.

7/16/18-LEAVE THOSE TROUT ALONE. THAT'S THE MESSAGE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. TROUT ARE COLD WATER FISH, AND CONTINUED HIGH TEMPERATURES HAVE THEM SEEKING RELIEF IN DEEP, COLD WATERS. THAT MEANS FISHERMAN WILL FIND THEM CONCENTRATED TOGETHER AND EASIER TO CATCH AS THEY TRY TO ESCAPE THE HEAT. BUT THE HEAT STRESSED FISH ARE LIKELY TO DIE IF CAUGHT, EVEN WHEN GENTLY HANDLED AND RELEASED BY ANGLERS.

7/17/18-TOXIC ALGAE BLOOMS ARE GETTING WORSE ACROSS NEW YORK. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. FOR THE FIRST TIME THEY'RE MONITORING THE PROBLEM ACROSS THE STATE, AND THE LATEST REPORT FOUND 19 BODIES OF WATER SUFFERING FROM BLUE GREEN ALGAE BLOOMS. THOSE GREEN, SWIRLING CLOUDS IN THE WATER ARE CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE NUTRIENTS IN THE WATER, MOST OF IT GENERATED BY RUNOFF FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA. SO FAR THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY CASES IN HERKIMER OR ONEIDA COUNTIES.

7/18/18-AN INTERNATIONAL TRAVELER HAS ARRIVED IN NEW YORK. OFFICIALS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAY THE LONGHORNED TICK, A NATIVE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, IS NOW IN THE EMPIRE STATE. SO FAR THE BLOODSUCKERS ARE LIMITED TO WESTCHESTER COUNTY, BUT THEY'RE EXPECTED TO STEADILY SPREAD TO THE REST OF NEW YORK. THE TICK HASN'T BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CARRIER FOR ANY NEW DISEASES, BUT OFFICIALS SAY IT'S LIKELY TO CARRY THE SAME DISEASES AS OUR NATIVE TICKS.

7/20/18-THERE COULD BE A MONSTER FLOATING IN YOUR POOL, AND THE STATE WOULD LIKE YOU TO TAKE A FEW SNAPSHOTS OF IT. THE D-E-C IS CURRENTLY RUNNING A PROGRAM TO TRACK THE SPREAD OF THE ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE. THEY'RE ASKING POOL OWNERS TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE INSECTS THAT SHOW UP IN THEIR POOL FILTER, SO THEY CAN MONITOR WHICH AREAS THE DESTRUCTIVE INSECT HAS MIGRATED TO. DETAILS ABOUT THE PROGRAM, AND IDENTIFICATION PICTURES OF THE BEETLE, ARE UP AT D-E-C-DOT-N-Y-DOT-GOV.

7/23/18-THE GOOD NEWS IS OUR ABNORMALLY DRY WEATHER IS ABOUT TO END. THE BAD NEWS IS WE COULD SEE SOME SERIOUS FLOODING. FORECASTERS ARE RAISING RED FLAGS ABOUT A SERIES OF STORMS THAT COULD ROLL OVER THE UTICA ROME AREA IN THE NEXT WEEK. THE PATTERN IS OMINOUSLY SIMILAR TO WHAT HAPPENED BACK IN 2006, WHEN THE AREA WAS POUNDED BY ONE STORM AFTER ANOTHER AND SAW HISTORIC FLOODING. THOSE STORMS CAUSED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO ROADS AND BRIDGES AND LEFT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WITHOUT POWER.

7/26/18-NEW YORK IS GIVING UP. YESTERDAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ANNOUNCED IT WAS ENDING EFFORTS TO STOP THE EMERALD ASH BORER. THE INVASIVE ASIAN INSECT HAS ALREADY SPREAD TO 43 COUNTIES, REPEATEDLY BREAKING THROUGH QUARANTINE. OFFICIALS NOW SAY IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THE BRIGHT GREEN BUG WIPES OUT ALL OF THE STATE'S ASH TREES, AND IT WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE TO HARVEST THE REMAINING TREES BEFORE THEY'RE DEVoured.

7/26/18-TOXIC ALGAE BLOOMS ARE GETTING WORSE ACROSS NEW YORK. THE LATEST MONITORING REPORT FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOUND 45 LAKES AND PONDS SUFFERING FROM HARMFUL BLOOMS. THE SWIRLING GREEN CLOUDS SHOW UP IN THE WATER WHEN A COMBINATION OF EXCESSIVE NUTRIENTS AND HIGH TEMPERATURES PROVIDE THE PERFECT CONDITIONS FOR THE MICROSCOPIC PLANTS TO PROLIFERATE. SO FAR THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY CASES IN HERKIMER OR ONEIDA COUNTIES.

7/31/18-HOW DANGEROUS IS THE LONGHORNED TICK? THAT'S THE QUESTION MEMBERS OF THE STATE SENATE ARE ASKING. THEY'VE REQUESTED THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE PARASITE. EARLIER THIS YEAR A ROUTINE FIELD SURVEY DISCOVERED THE TICK IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY. THE TINY CREATURE IS A NATIVE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND AND CAN CARRY TRANSMIT THEILERIOSIS, A POTENTIALLY FATAL LIVESTOCK DISEASE. OFFICIALS STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW THE TICK TRAVELED FROM ASIA TO NEW YORK.