Dear Durango Tourism Partners,

DATO has been in close contact with multiple agencies since the beginning of the Gold King Mine spill. Throughout, it has been a challenge for us to establish accuracy from speculation. We have been very cautious in our assistance with visitors and callers to give them the best guidance we can. Today, we feel confident sharing with you these most frequently asked questions to help guide you in your conversations with guests.

Please let us know how your business is performing and customer reactions to the incident.

Andrea Seid
Sales & Marketing Manager
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Answers to FAQs Asked About the Animas River

When did this incident happen?

Is the drinking water safe?
Yes. The City of Durango wants to remind residents and businesses that if they pay their water bill to the City of Durango, their tap water is safe to drink. City staff turned off and blocked the intakes from the Animas River last Wednesday before the plume reached Durango. The pumps will remain off until notified that the Animas is safe for pumping drinking water. Because the Florida River is now the sole source of drinking water, it is imperative that residents and businesses continue to conserve as much water as possible.

What does the river closure mean?
The Animas River is currently closed to recreational activities by Order of the La Plata County Sheriff until such time as the river has been deemed safe for contact and possible ingestion.

Is the town of Durango closed?
No, the Animas River is only one aspect of our town. Durango and La Plata County are open with business as usual with plenty of activities. The Animas River is closed to recreational activities however there are numerous lakes and rivers for water recreation in the area.

If I still want to raft, fish or boat what are my options?
Vallecito Lake—18 miles from Durango, it is the largest body of water at this elevation or higher in Colorado. Fishing, boating, SUP, kayak, shoreline activities. 
http://www.durango.org/discover-durango/vallecito-lake

Water recreation and fishing: Electra Lake, Haviland Lake, Little Molas Lake, Andrews Lake, Upper Hermosa Creek, Navajo Reservoir, Cascade Creek, Potato
Lake, West Lime Creek, San Juan River, Los Pinos River, Lemon Reservoir, Piedra River, La Plata River, Mancos River, Dolores River.

**Fishing Guides:**


**San Juan Anglers** offers guides for walk-in trips, San Juan trips, high-country tributaries and lakes. [http://thesanjuanangler.com](http://thesanjuanangler.com), 970-382-9978

**Is the river still orange?**

No, the images of discolored water circulating in the media are from the initial discharge, almost one week ago. The Animas River remains closed; however, the color has mostly cleared from the river.

**What about the air quality in the area?**

This Gold King Mine situation was not an airborne contamination. The air quality in the area is not currently affected by this incident.

**What else is there to do?**

You may find a complete list of Durango’s vacation activities at [www.durango.org](http://www.durango.org) As a vacation destination, Durango boasts “A Dozen Vacations in One Destination” due to the wide variety and depth of activities available in the area. From ancient ruins at Mesa Verde National Park and adventures at Purgatory Resort, to art galleries dotting Main Avenue and the historic Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, or jeep trail tours and a day on the water at Vallecito Lake, Durango offers a wide variety of activities for a refreshing and inspiring end of summer vacation.

**Additional resources and information:**
- La Plata County: [www.co.laplata.co.us/emergency](http://www.co.laplata.co.us/emergency) or 970-385-8700
- San Juan Basin Health Department: [www.sjbhd.org](http://www.sjbhd.org)
- Durango Area Tourism Office: [www.durango.org](http://www.durango.org), 1-800-525-8855
- EPA: [www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine)
- City of Durango: [www.durangogov.org](http://www.durangogov.org)

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Stay in the know with DATO -- visit our Industry Partner Toolbox on Durango.org.