



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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Serving The Treasure Valley Since 1904

NAMPA & MERIDIAN IRRIGATION DISTRICT TO FILL CANALS APRIL 2; ISSUES WARNING ABOUT CHILD DROWNING DANGERS

For Immediate Release
Nampa, Idaho – March 26, 2018

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The recent storms, coupled with a good amount of 2017 storage water, have water managers with the Treasure Valley's largest irrigation district anticipating a full irrigation supply of water when they begin filling the historic Ridenbaugh Canal by Barber Park near Boise on April 2 and officially launch the 2018 irrigation season, according to the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District.

It takes about two weeks to fill and charge up the entire 500-mile system and to check for leaks along the District's 80 plus canals so NMID should be ready to start water deliveries to our users about April 16, District officials said.

NMID officials also are warning parents that the start of irrigation season means the start of a very dangerous period for children and adults. Every year across the irrigated southern half of the state, including the Treasure Valley, lives are claimed in the depths of the cold, swift flowing canal water.

"Tragically we know from experience that children and grownups will die each year in irrigation canals. There's only one way to prevent that: never, ever go anywhere near a canal. Canals are not playgrounds for children even if a parent is there. Nor are the canal banks recreation areas for adults. And canals are absolutely not alternatives for supervised swimming pools, warned Greg Curtis, the NMID Water Superintendent.

Curtis urged Treasure Valley parents to make their children and other family members understand that they are not to play around any irrigation canal. NMID canals are private property, so playing in a canal or along its banks is considered trespassing under Idaho law.

In late May the District will launch an extensive television canal safety outreach program in May using television and radio safety messages in English and Spanish to warn parents about the dangers canals pose especially to children and young adults.

NMID crews are in the last phase of a very ambitious off-season list of construction and repair projects to get the District's canal system ready to start water deliveries.

Crews also installed more than 2,000 feet of reinforced concrete pipe to bury underground various parts of smaller, lateral canals.



A NMID crew installs 24-inch concrete pipe in farmland to replace more than 1,000 feet of open canal. When the piping project is done irrigation water will be carried underground and the canal filled in with dirt. (NMID Photo)

NMID workers poured more than 1,600 cubic yards of concrete replacing diversions, structures and concrete headgates and lining more than 1,500 feet of the Ridenbaugh Canal below Linder Road.



NMID workers pour concrete on the bottom of the Ridenbaugh Canal below Linder Road. More than 1,500 feet of the canal were lined with concrete in the project. (NMID Photo)

Some of the District's 410 pressurized urban irrigation systems will actually start pressurizing their systems to check for leaks prior to switching over to canal water and users need to make sure their systems are prepared, Cutis noted.

To get information regarding pressurized systems operated by the City of Nampa please check with the City of Nampa Water Works Division at 208-468-5860.

NMID delivers irrigation water to approximately 69,000 acres of Treasure Valley agricultural and residential lands in Ada and Canyon Counties including pressurized irrigation for more than 16,000 residential and commercial lots including 410 subdivisions.

2018 marks the 114th consecutive year of water deliveries to the Treasure Valley by the irrigation district.

For more information about the District call (208) 466-7861. There is also a wealth of information about the district on its Internet website: www.nmid.org.



NMID replaced an old metal pipe with 30-inch concrete pipe in a local residential area as part of the District's maintenance projects done while the irrigation delivery system was empty of water. (NMID Photo)

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