



# News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District  
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*Serving The Treasure Valley Since 1904*

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## **Irrigation District's Certified Mail Notices Can Prevent Residents Home From Being Sold**

For Immediate Release  
Nampa, Idaho – Nov. 10, 2008

For Media Information Contact:  
Daren Coon – (208) 466-7861

In these tough financial times, officials with the Treasure Valley's largest irrigation district say there's a simple way for residents to save a few bucks: go to the post office and pick up the certified letter Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District sent you.

Doing so also means you could learn that unless you take action, your home is in danger of ending up on the public auction block.

Each summer the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District sends certified letters notifying certain property owners that they are three years in arrears on irrigation taxes owed to the District. The notice also warns individuals that unless the taxes are paid, tax deed action will be started which could end up with the property being sold at public auction to pay the tax bill.

This year certified mail notices went out to 106 individuals in Ada and Canyon Counties who had not paid their 2005 tax bill. Collectively those notices represent approximately \$26,700 in unpaid taxes. Individual tax bills range from \$1,103 to just \$95 with the average being about \$250, according to Daren Coon, NMID Secretary Treasurer.

As of Monday (Nov. 10), 33 of those certified mail notices have gone unclaimed at the post office. NMID officials can only speculate why people chose to not pick up certified letters, but believe it may be because they think not doing so will somehow prevent a legal process from starting. Ironically, in this instance it is just the opposite. Picking up the letter gives individuals the notice that can help them take action to head off a legal process that could cost them their homes.

"It is really a bad situation for the property owner. The typical tax deed action involves just a couple of hundred dollars in back taxes plus the notification fees. But by not acting, they start a process that could very well end up with their home being sold at auction for just a tiny fraction of it's actual value," Coon said.

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Each November the District publishes once each week a large ad in the legal section of the two area daily papers listing the names of individuals who failed to pick up the certified letter. The ad represents a last-ditched attempt to notify people that tax deed action is about to be started against their property. *(Editor's Note: The last two times the notice will be published is the weeks of Nov. 17 & 24.)*

The proportional cost of publishing the ad also gets added to the individual tax bills. This year that represents either \$79 or \$149 depending on the newspaper. Those additional costs could have been avoided if the certified mail notice had been picked up.

“Regrettably, almost three dozen area residents have chosen not to pick up the certified letter of notification. That decision has not only cost them from \$79 to \$149, it has also now put their homes in danger of ending up on the auction block,” Coon said.

People who have questions about their assessment payment or the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District should call the District office at 466-7861. More information about the District is also available on its Internet web site: [www.nmid.org](http://www.nmid.org).

The Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District is a water storage, conveyance and distribution system founded in 1904. The District supplies irrigation water to some 69,000 acres of farmland and pressurized irrigation to more than 14,800 individual parcels of land in Ada and Canyon counties.

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