



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

1503 First Street South, Nampa, Idaho 83651
Tel: (208) 466-7861 -- Fax: (208) 463-0092
Serving The Treasure Valley Since 1904

NAMPA & MERIDIAN TO FILL CANALS APRIL 4; FULL IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY ANTICIPATED

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For Media Information Contact:
John Anderson, (208) 466-0663

John Anderson, water superintendent with the valley's largest irrigation district, says he can't remember the last time he felt so optimistic about the irrigation water supply outlook for the Treasure Valley.

Anderson will open Ridenbaugh Canal head gates on the Boise River near Barber Park in the early morning hours of April 4 as the 2011 irrigation season begins. The water flowing into the historic Ridenbaugh is the first step in the process that will eventually fill the more than 80 Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District canals snaking across more than 500 miles of Ada and Canyon Counties.

"The reservoirs are almost full, the snow pack levels have been climbing daily and we've even got some carryover water from last year available. All those things together mean 2011 is going to be a good irrigation season. It's been a pretty long spell since we've had a truly normal irrigation season but this kind of water supply will make that possible," Anderson said.

Normally, water will flow in the NMID system until the first part of October. Anderson anticipates that will be the case this year.

As the Ridenbaugh Canal fills, smaller lateral canals will also begin to flow with water. It will take several days before the District's canals are completely full of water, especially in the furthest reaches of the system.

Despite the rosy outlook for valley irrigators and residents with pressurized irrigation systems, the irrigation season also marks the start of what historically means an increased drowning risk for children, young people, even adults.

"Canals are inherently deadly for children and young people. The water is deep and cold and it flows at a fast rate of speed and are almost impossible to get out of if you fall in," Anderson said. Canals are private property so playing in a canal or along its banks is considered trespassing under Idaho law.

NMID delivers irrigation water to 69,000 acres of Treasure Valley land including pressurized irrigation to more than 15,241 residential and commercial lots including 341 residential subdivisions. For information about the District call 466-7861. Information is also available on its Internet website:

www.nmid.org.

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