



# News Release

## Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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Serving The Treasure Valley Since 1904

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### **NAMPA & MERIDIAN TO FILL CANALS APRIL 2; FULL IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY ANTICIPATED**

For Immediate Release  
Nampa, Idaho – March 26, 2012

For Media Information Contact:  
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Water managers with the Treasure Valley's largest irrigation district will start diverting water into the historic Ridenbaugh Canal near Barber Park on April 2 as the start of the 2012 irrigation season nears, the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District announced today.

NMID Water Superintendent Greg Curtis said the District is anticipating a full supply of irrigation water in both Arrowrock and Anderson Ranch reservoirs which should ensure a normal irrigation supply to District water users.

"I am very optimistic for another good water season. The more Mother Nature helps by having another cool spring, the more that allows the snow pack to slowly come off the hills and keep the natural river production adequate to meet our needs. That will help delay when we have to draw on storage in the reservoirs," Curtis said.

The headgates on the NMID water diversion will be opened at 3 a.m. as the District begins the process of filling some 500 miles of supply and lateral canals with irrigation water. Curtis said he will slowly fill all the District's 80-plus canals and laterals to check for leaks and prepare for water delivery to District patrons by mid April. Typically, the water will flow in the NMID system until the first part of October.

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

"Irrigation canals are inherently dangerous, especially for children and young people. Canal water is deep, cold and fast flowing. If a child falls in, it is almost impossible for them to get out, even if they can swim," Curtis 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 approximately 69,000 acres of Treasure Valley agricultural and residential lands in Ada and Canyon Counties including pressurized irrigation for more than 15,200 residential and commercial lots including 343 residential subdivisions. The District will start charging up and testing some of its pressurized systems as soon as today (March 26) in preparation of water delivery. For information about the District call 466-7861. Information is also available on its Internet website: [www.nmid.org](http://www.nmid.org).

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