



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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Serving The Treasure Valley Since 1904

www.nmid.org

NAMPA & MERIDIAN IRRIGATION DISTRICT TO FILL CANALS APRIL 1; ISSUES WARNING ABOUT CHILD DROWNING DANGERS

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NMID Holds Canal Safety Presentation Illustrating Drowning Dangers Posed by Canals

Area irrigation canals will begin filling with water on Monday and that that means it's the time of year when children and adults face a genuine risk of drowning unless they stay away from the cold, fast flowing water in the hundreds of miles of canals that snake across the Treasure Valley.

That has prompted the area's largest irrigation district to take a proactive approach to canal safety by creating and holding a special canal safety presentation this Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Meridian at the Holy Apostles Catholic Church, 6300 N. Meridian Rd.

The church is holding a public safety awareness event after church services and asked NMID to participate by focusing on canal safety. NMID employees Chaneé Grant and Rachelle Duvall created a special water safety poster display and a special canal safety pamphlet that outlines the dangers posed by irrigation canals for the presentation.

The two women will be on hand to answer questions and help explain to adults and children just why canals are so dangerous. Statistics show that three children will typically die of drowning in Idaho irrigation canals every year.

NMID also conducts a vigorous TV media outreach campaign during the irrigation season warning residents about the very real drowning dangers posed by canals.

NMID delivers irrigation water to approximately 69,000 acres of Treasure Valley agricultural and residential lands in Ada and Canyon Counties. 2019 marks the 115th consecutive year of water deliveries to the Treasure Valley by the irrigation district. For more information about the District call (208) 466-7861. Information is also available online at www.nmid.org.

Photo Caption: A poster used in the NMID canal safety presentation.



- Canals can be up to, if not more than, 8 feet deep like our Ridenbaugh Canal pictured here by Federal Way in Boise.
- It's lined with concrete to conserve water but is more difficult to get out. NMID has installed grab bars along the sides to assist with this.
- Adults may have the strength and ability to get out of the canal, children and pets do not.

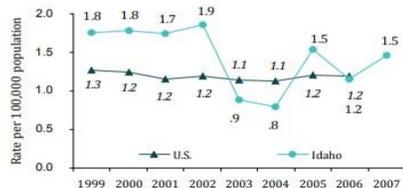


OTTO
says:
Canals may look like fun, but they are not for play.

OTTO
dice:
Los canales parecen divertidos pero no son para jugar.

Graph below created by Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics (September 2009).

United States* and Idaho Resident Death Rates Due to Accidental Drowning and Submersion 1999-2007



*2006, U.S. latest year available

The unfortunate truth:

- 1999 – 2007 – total of 177 drownings.
 - 18 in irrigation facilities, 54 in rivers/streams.
- 2011 – 2014 – total of 23 children lost to drowning.
- 2012 – 2016 – total of 113 drownings.

CANAL SAFETY

by

NAMPA & MERIDIAN IRRIGATION DISTRICT



Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District was established in 1904 to help supply the demand for irrigation water to the Treasure Valley. A typical irrigation season goes from 1 April to 15 October, depending on water availability, and is on a continuous-flow basis. This means, during irrigation season, water is constantly flowing. Currently our District has approximately 80 canals/laterals and 80 drain ditches that come to an estimated total of 500 miles. Most of them look very inviting to all of us, especially on a hot day. Though let us share with you a few facts about the true dangers of our canals and why we heed caution to the public.

Please keep in mind:

- Just as you wouldn't let your kid play in the middle of the road, we ask that parents treat canals with equal regard.

Children die in Canals.
Don't let yours.



Dangers to be aware of:

- Waters can be at minimum temperature of 35 degrees.
- Speeds of up to 3 – 4 mph.
- Again, not easy to climb out of and low temp can inhibit movement/motion.



Also keep in mind the following:

- Looks serene on the surface, rapidly flowing below.
- Slick canal walls
- Whirlpools (as shown above)
- Weed Racks (below) that the water will pin you up against.

