



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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

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Local irrigation canals will begin filling with water April 1 as the valley's largest irrigation district begins diverting water from the Boise River near Barber Park into the Ridenbaugh Canal signaling the start of the 2020 irrigation system, water managers with the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District said today.

"We hope to start delivering water to our water users by the 20th of April. It takes about two weeks for all 500 miles of our canals to fill because we need to bring in the canal system slow so we can check the delivery system for any issues prior to making any deliveries," explained Greg Curtis, NMID Water Superintendent.

The start of irrigation season also marks the start of a very dangerous period for children and adults. Water managers warn that long term statistics show that children and grownups will die each year in irrigation canals across the valley.

"It is crucial that parents take time to talk with their children about staying away from canals. Parents must make their children and other family members understand that they are not to play around any irrigation canal. Canals and canal banks are not playgrounds for children or recreation areas for adults and canals are absolutely not alternatives for supervised swimming pools," Curtis warned.

NMID canals are private property so playing in a canal or along its banks is considered trespassing under Idaho law.

"Mother Nature has recently added to the snow pack and that plus carryover water from last year, will hopefully allow for a full irrigation season. We would like to remind everyone to start prepping their own irrigation systems to receive water whether it might be a ditch or pressurized irrigation system so that they are not caught by surprise when water starts to flow, Curtis added.

Officials say that lateral ditch water users associations should be meeting and discussing their rotation schedules and any needed maintenance to their private systems. It is also a good time to determine who the irrigation provider or area water master is for their area and keep the appropriate contact phone number handy in case there is an emergency.

Some of the more than 400 pressurized urban irrigation systems operated by the District will start to be pressurized as soon as April 6th to check for leaks. Residents on those systems need to be sure their system is reassembled after it was winterized last fall.

People who live in Nampa should check with the City of Nampa Water Works Division at (208) 468-5860 if they have questions about pressurized irrigation delivery in their service area.

NMID supplies pressurized irrigation water to more than 17,000 individual parcels of land, including 493 subdivisions in Ada and Canyon counties.



The Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District diversion on the Boise River near Barber Park.

NMID delivers irrigation water to approximately 69,000 acres of Treasure Valley agricultural and residential lands in Ada and Canyon Counties. 2020 marks the 116th 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 on its Internet website: www.nmid.org.

Photo Caption: The NMID Ridenbaugh Canal diversion on the Boise River near Barber Park.