

News Release

Pioneer Irrigation District

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PIONEER IRRIGATION DISTRICT CAUTIONS PARENTS TO KEEP CHILDREN AWAY FROM CANALS, DITCHES

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Pioneer Irrigation District officials today issued a strong warning to area parents: Keep your children away from canals and drains or you are putting their life at risk of drowning.

The warning comes as the District gets ready on Wednesday to begin to fill several hundred miles of canals and laterals with cold, deep irrigation water. Officials say it should take about a week until the system is fully charged with water.

“Canals are inherently dangerous for all people, but they can be extremely deadly for children,” said Jeff Scott, Pioneer Water Superintendent.

Canal banks are steep and almost impossible for a child to get out of should they fall in. The water is extremely cold because it is chilled by melting snow. That means a person who falls in can begin to suffer from hypothermia literally in a matter of minutes, Scott noted.

With warmer weather approaching children are outside more often which in turn means the presence of flowing water in canals and drains can stimulate their curiosity drawing them close to the edge of canal banks.

“One step too close and they can fall in. Once they are in the water their chances of survival are slim. The only protection is for parents to keep their kids completely away from canal banks to begin with,” Scott said.

Parents should avoid walking with children on canal banks because it sends a completely wrong message to children about the dangers of a canal. “The last thing parents need to do is to mistakenly have their children begin to think that canals must not be dangerous because their parents let them walk on the bank,” Scott added.

For more information on Pioneer Irrigation District, call 459-3617 or visit the District’s web site at www.pioneerirrigation.com.

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