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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Groundwater Awareness Week: March 11-17, 2012

Time to schedule your annual water well checkup!

EASTERN IDAHO -- Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good season to check your well before the peak water use season begins, according to the National Ground Water Association (NGWA).

Why is it a good idea to have my water well checked annually?

“Annual testing is the best way to ensure quality water,” says Kellye Eager, Environmental Health Director at Eastern Idaho Public Health District. “We encourage testing for coliform bacteria and nitrates. These are acute contaminants, meaning it does not take drinking much of the water, if contaminated, to make someone sick.”

NGWA further recommends you test your water whenever there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance, or when the system is serviced.

Schedule your annual water well checkup

Wells can provide high-quality drinking water, and about half the U.S. population receives its drinking water from wells. But with well ownership comes the responsibility of keeping the water well in good working order. A check of your well may include:

- A test of your water for coliform bacteria and nitrates, and anything else of local concern. Other typical additional tests are those for iron, manganese, water hardness, sulfides, and other water constituents that cause problems with plumbing, staining, water appearance, and odor.
- If the output volume of water is changing, consult with a well driller or plumber to verify pump motor performance (check amp load, grounding, and line voltage) pressure tank and pressure switch contact.

—MORE—

Eastern Idaho Public Health District also recommends that well owners:

- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well, and maintain a "clean" zone of at least 50 feet between your well and any kennels and livestock operations.
- Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems, and chemical storage areas.
- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. Its seal should keep out insects and rodents.
- Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, and annual water well system maintenance and water testing results.

For more information

Eastern Idaho Public Health District has many resources for well owners in its website at <http://www.phd7.idaho.gov>.

People may also call and speak with an Environmental Health Specialist at Eastern Idaho Public Health District with any questions they may have.

Bonneville County	523-5382
Clark and Jefferson Counties.....	745-7297
Custer and Lemhi Counties	756-2123
Fremont and Madison Counties	624-7585
Teton County	354-2220

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