



Eastern Idaho Public Health

1250 Hollipark Drive • Idaho Falls, ID 83401 • Phone: (208) 522-0310 • www.EIPH.Idaho.gov

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Mimi Taylor, PIO
Office: (208) 533.3155
Cell: (208) 521.6722

Clean Ground Water is Vital to the Health and Safety of Idahoans

EIPH recognizes National Ground Water Awareness Week, March 8 - 14

(Idaho Falls, ID) - Ground water, the water beneath the earth's surface, is vital to Idahoans. Ground water supplies approximately 95 percent of Idahoans with their drinking water. National Ground Water Awareness Week will be observed March 8-14, 2015, to foster citizen awareness of the importance of ground water resources in Idaho.

To help protect human health and ground water quality and conserve water resources in Idaho, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW), and Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) offer the following guidance:

- Test private wells for pollutants. Septic systems, animal waste, fertilizers and pesticides, flooding, and naturally occurring compounds such as arsenic and fluoride can contaminate ground water. Private well owners should have their well water tested for possible contaminants if their wells have never been tested or if the water tastes, smells, or looks strange. In addition, annual testing for bacteria, nitrate, and other contaminants of local concern is recommended.
- Prevent hazardous materials from seeping into the ground. Dispose of hazardous materials properly, use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and according to label instructions, construct water wells properly, close/decommission problem wells, and properly maintain septic systems.
- Use water wisely. Conserve this valuable resource by using water-efficient appliances and toilets, using low-flow shower heads, fixing toilet and faucet leaks, and running the dishwasher only when it is full.

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For more information about ground water awareness week, please contact Merrill Hemming, Public Water Coordinator at Eastern Idaho Public Health. His number is 533.3129. Or, please visit these websites:

- EPA's ground water and drinking water webpage at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/index.cfm>
- Eastern Idaho Public Health's webpage at www.EIPH.Idaho.gov

Also, for updates on National Ground Water Awareness Week and other health district news, "like us" on Facebook (search for Eastern Idaho Public Health) at <https://www.facebook.com>.

About Eastern Idaho Public Health

Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) is one of seven local health districts throughout the state of Idaho. We serve eight counties including: Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton. The mission of Eastern Idaho Public Health is: to prevent disease, disability and premature death; to promote healthy lifestyles; and to protect and promote the health and quality of our environment.

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