



Water Division  
2235 NW 8th Street  
Meridian, ID 83646

Phone: (208) 888-5242  
Fax: (208) 884-1159  
[water@meridiancity.org](mailto:water@meridiancity.org)  
[backflow@meridiancity.org](mailto:backflow@meridiancity.org)

*This land, this water,  
this air, this planet -  
this is our legacy to  
our young.*

— Paul Tsongas

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BOISE, IDAHO  
PERMIT NO. 220



[www.meridiancity.org](http://www.meridiancity.org)

## Share This Important Information

If other people, such as tenants, residents, patients, students, or employees, receive water from you, it is important that you provide this Water Quality Report to them by posting it in a conspicuous location or by direct mail or hand delivery.

For more copies or to receive this Water Quality Report in electronic format, please contact the Meridian Water Division at 208-888-5242 or email us at: [water@meridiancity.org](mailto:water@meridiancity.org).

## Additional Information and Links

Meridian Water Division After Hours Emergency.....	208-888-5242
Meridian Water Division .....	<a href="http://www.meridiancity.org/water">www.meridiancity.org/water</a> , 208-888-5242
Meridian Backflow Prevention Program .....	<a href="mailto:backflow@meridiancity.org">backflow@meridiancity.org</a> , 208-888-5242
Meridian Environmental Division .....	<a href="http://www.meridiancity.org/environmental">www.meridiancity.org/environmental</a> , 208-489-0351
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality .....	<a href="http://www.deq.idaho.gov">www.deq.idaho.gov</a> , 208-373-0550
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) .....	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater">www.epa.gov/safewater</a>
Safe Drinking Water Hotline.....	800-426-4791
American Water Works Association .....	<a href="http://www.drinktap.org">www.drinktap.org</a>

## Water Superintendent

Dennis Teller  
(208) 888-5242  
[dteller@meridiancity.org](mailto:dteller@meridiancity.org)

## Deputy Director of Utility Operations

Dale Bolthouse  
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## Public Works Director

Tom Barry  
(208) 898-5500  
[tbarry@meridiancity.org](mailto:tbarry@meridiancity.org)

## Mayor

Tammy de Weerd  
(208) 888-4433  
[mayortammy@meridiancity.org](mailto:mayortammy@meridiancity.org)

## Council Members

Keith Bird	Joe Borton
Charlie Rountree	Luke Cavener
David Zaremba	Genesis Milam







# **Water Quality Report 2013**

CITY OF MERIDIAN, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT





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# Thank you

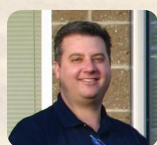
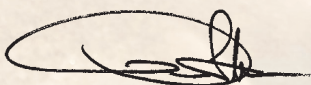
**for choosing the City of Meridian as your place of residence...**

We at Meridian Public Works Water Division are working hard daily to provide clean drinking water for you! Once again, we are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report celebrating yet another successful year of supplying drinking water that meets or surpasses all established state and federal drinking water quality standards, more so than most products you can use at home - including bottled water. There are few things as important to our public health as the availability of clean drinking water and, at Meridian Water, we take our responsibility to distribute that water to your tap very seriously.

Our continued commitment to you, our valued customer, is to remain vigilant in protecting our precious water resources while delivering the safest, highest quality drinking water at an affordable price.

## Exceptional Service in Every Drop!

In this year's report, you will find water quality information from 2013. In the pages that follow, you will learn where your drinking water comes from, what it contains, water quality in your area, a history of our water, how to protect our supplies, and what you can do to protect your home's plumbing. You will also learn how to interpret the enclosed sample data, valuable water conservation tips, and how you can help in assisting us maintain critical emergency access to our water facilities in your neighborhood.



*Dennis Teller,  
Water Superintendent*

To download this report, please visit [www.meridiancity.org/water/](http://www.meridiancity.org/water/)



# Please Join Us For The 6th Annual Public Works Week

JUNE 3-7 2014

Enjoy  
kid's  
activities

Meet  
Hydro!

Learn  
about

Waste  
Water  
Treatment

Protecting  
our  
Environment

Drinking  
Water

Public Works Week is a nationwide celebration of Public Works programs and activities highlighting what we do behind the scenes to provide our citizens with critical services that afford us the high quality of life we have come to appreciate in Meridian.

This year we have several events planned to say thanks for all of your support over the past year. We hope to see you there!

## Wednesday

### Expo

**JUNE 4** 4:00pm - 7:00pm

**LOCATION:** Meridian City Hall  
33 E Broadway, Meridian

- FREE Hot Dogs & Popcorn
- Mini Heavy Equipment Rodeo
- Fire Hydrant Flushing Demo
- Live Pipe Cleaning Demo
- Kids Activities
- Large Equipment Show
- Interactive Educational
- Displays
- Meet & Greet Public Works Staff
- **Free Fun For Everyone!**

## Thursday

### Go with the Flow FACILITY BUS TOUR

**JUNE 5** 5:15pm - 8:30pm

**LOCATION:** Meridian City Hall  
33 E Broadway, Meridian

This tour will enable you to experience a wide range of Public Works operations including:

- Drinking from an Artesian Well
- Touring inside the Water Tower
- Exploring a Lift Station
- Touring the Waste Water Treatment Plant

Learn what your Public Works Department does daily to provide you with essential City Services.

- First come, First Served...
- Space is limited and you must Pre-Register.
- To register please contact Mollie Mangerich at: [mmangerich@meridiancity.org](mailto:mmangerich@meridiancity.org)
- For more info, call 898-5500

## Saturday

### Poop Scoot 3K/5K FUN RUN/WALK

**JUNE 7** 7:30 am registration.  
Race begins at 8:30am

**LOCATION:** 8th Street Park  
2235 NW 8th Street, Meridian

Check-in starts at 7:30 a.m. at the 8th Street Park.

Finish line is at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Entry Fee:** 2 cans of food for the Meridian Food Bank.

Shuttle service available at the end of the race.

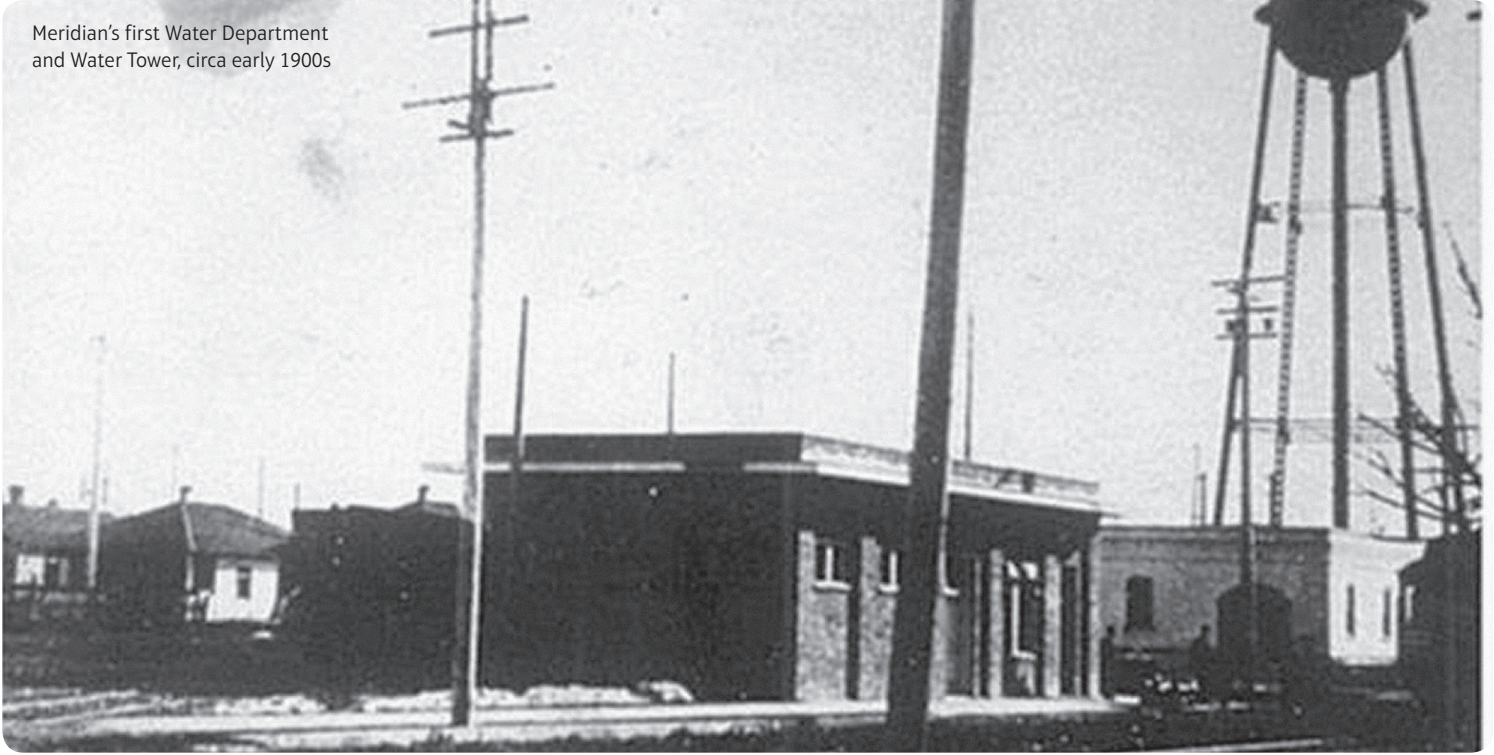
*Great fun for the entire family!*

Register online @  
[www.meridiancity.org/FORMS.ASPX?ID=16950](http://www.meridiancity.org/FORMS.ASPX?ID=16950)



# Meridian Water: Over a Century of Service

Meridian's first Water Department and Water Tower, circa early 1900s



Have you ever thought about how the water distribution system in Meridian came to be? Wondered how old is it? What it was made of? Or even who built it?

Well... All of that took place a pretty long time ago. We thought we knew quite a bit about its origin and history until a recent discovery uncovered during the Meridian Road Split Corridor Project last spring. During this project, the City seized the opportunity presented by this project and replaced the antiquated water and sewer mains while the street surfaces were removed. This infrastructure reduced replacement costs, and luckily exposed a rare section of unknown and abandoned 6 inch diameter wooden pipe. This discovery triggered the curiosity of the Public Works Department, prompting an investigation into our history to find out why it was there, and what was it originally used for.

To conduct this research, we turned to Doug Schofield, a certified Water Operator with the City and our resident "Water Line Historian Extraordinaire", to find out as much as we could about this mysterious pipe. What he uncovered, with the help of Lila Hill from the Meridian Historical Society, was impressive to say the least. With their combined efforts, the journey into our past began to rapidly gain traction with the discovery of some Council meeting minutes dating back to 1910 for the then "Village of Meridian". This document directed them to other information to better piece the puzzle together on just how this pipe came to be and bring history back to life. Upon conclusion, their findings positively identified that we had, in fact, uncovered part of Meridian's first water distribution system!



Downtown Meridian circa early 1900s

As a society today, we tend to take water for granted, not fully understanding the important and critical role water plays in our daily lives. The luxury that we can rely on safe drinking water to be at our beck and call wasn't always the case in Meridian. In 1909, the Village Council investigated the possibility of installing a Village-wide potable water system due to a typhoid fever outbreak caused by shallow drinking water wells being contaminated by cesspools leaching into the groundwater supply. (Fortunately today, with more thorough understanding of our underground hydrology, the City pumps its groundwater from deep, confined aquifers, to prevent this type of shallow surface contamination from reoccurring.)

With the need for a clean, safe and protected community water source now more important than ever, a special Council session was held on December 27, 1909, to come up with a solution. At this meeting, a decision was made to fund the installation



and construction of the Village's first Water System. This community system was to be capable of supplying drinking water from deeper water sources and the much needed water storage supplies (an elevated water storage tank) required for fire suppression needs. Funding the project was covered by a 20 year bond in the amount of \$20,000 via Village Ordinance #39. Subsequently, on June 25, 1910, contracts were awarded for materials to the "Portland Woodstave Pipe Company" and "Tacoma Washington Pipe and Foundry". Underground installation work was awarded to the "Dutcher and Ednie Company" while the water tower construction was awarded to the "Chicago Bridge and Iron Works Company" (ironically the same company that, 64 years later, built our existing beloved water tower in the center of town).

Although it's still a little unclear, we believe the creation of the City's first "Water Works Department" and water system were put in, activated and operationally functional by late 1910 or early 1911. This project was a monumental first step in providing a vital service that vastly improved the quality of life for the residents of Meridian, bringing together a community that would ultimately make it possible to be a "Premier City to Live, Work and Raise a Family".



Recovered section of Meridian's original wooden water pipe

In December 1986, the Meridian Historical Society was organized to gather historical information and items from Meridian's past. The Meridian History Center features early photos and display cases of historical items related to the Meridian area. A historical railroad display case is also in the center. Membership is open to locals who are interested in Meridian's history. Dues are \$15.00 a year per person and \$25.00 for a married couple. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month from September - May, at 3:00 P.M. at the History Center. Collections include family, business and school histories.

For more information, please visit the Meridian History Center, Monday - Friday, located on the first floor of Meridian's City Hall, 33 E Broadway Avenue. If you're coming into City Hall to pay your water bill or to ask a question, stop by the History Center, whose mission is to gather and share Meridian's history for today's residents. Volunteers come in daily to answer questions and maintain a perfect environment for interested locals.



#### WEBSITE:

[www.meridianhistorycente.wix.com/meridianidaho#!](http://www.meridianhistorycente.wix.com/meridianidaho#!)  
(208) 489-0602

#### HOURS OF OPERATION (MAY VARY)

**Mon - Tues:** 10am-12pm

**Wed - Fri:** 1pm-3pm

## IS WOODEN PIPE FOR REAL?

### Answer: YES!

Wood pipe actually goes back centuries and began in the form of bored logs and was used in Europe as early as the seventeenth century. In the late 1800s, wood stave pipe was being manufactured to replace the uneconomical bored pipes. This new style of pipe was fabricated from wood "staves" and bound with steel wire (spiral wound) or bands to help reinforce the pipe and strengthen it from bursting. Basically, it was the same construction as a modern day wooden barrel, only much smaller in diameter and longer in length. Joints of pipe averaged ten feet in length and varied in sizes from a few inches in diameter to over three feet! Meridian's wood main was "spiral wound" with wire and would have come in sections that were placed together on site. Once together, the pipe would have been coated with a sealant to prevent water damage.

### Ok, This sounds believable, but wouldn't it leak?



Yes it did, but not for long. After installation it would have been filled with

water and allowed to sit for a number of days to allow the wood to swell together and create a watertight seal. Once sealed, the pipe was buried and put into service for what was, at the time, the Village of Meridian.



# Kid's Stop!



Water bottle fill station located at Tully Park

## Reducing Bottled Water Waste

The City of Meridian Public Works Environmental Division and the Parks and Recreation Department partnered to install unique water bottle refilling stations at Tully Park and Settlers Park.

Only 20% of the 30 billion bottles of water consumed annually by Americans end up in the recycling stream.

That means for every ten bottles we drink, eight will end up in the landfill.

These water bottle refill stations encourage conservation, help reduce the number of plastic bottles that will end up in the landfill and encourage the use of durable water containers. This reduces the fossil fuels and energy necessary to produce expensive bottled water.



## Celebrate your Scouts!

This year the City of Meridian was pleased to have Eagle Scout Mitchell Patterson from Troop 182 complete his Scout project by coordinating 14 volunteers to paint 180 Fire Hydrants this past fall. Mitchell and his group of volunteers completed 100 hours of service between October 12th and 17th. Mitchell did an outstanding job and his quality of work was second to none. The hydrants Mitchell and his volunteers painted are located in the Golf View and Lakes at Cherry Lane Subdivisions. Please drive by and witness this great work.

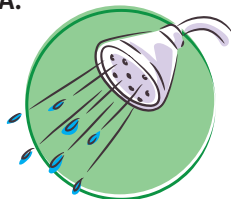
**Thanks Mitchell!**



## Which appliance in your home uses the most water?

(See below for the answer.)

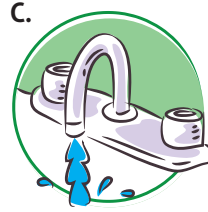
A.



B.



C.



D.



## Find the following words:

CLOUD  
CONDENSATION  
ENERGY  
EVAPORATION  
HAIL  
ICE CRYSTAL  
LAKE  
OCEAN  
PRECIPITATION  
RAIN  
RIVER  
RUNOFF  
SEA  
SNOW  
STREAM  
SUN  
WATER CYCLE  
WATER DROPLET  
WATER VAPOR  
WIND

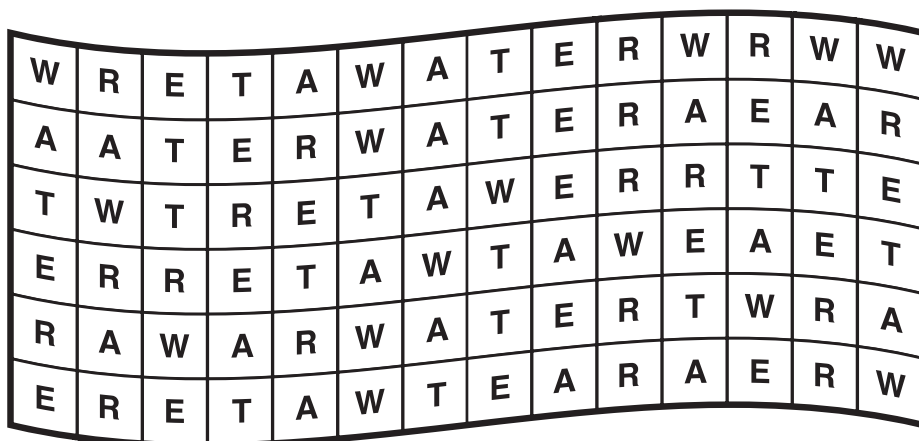
M	V	R	A	P	E	J	N	S	T	R	J	L	F	P	M
G	L	I	P	H	W	V	I	B	Y	A	Q	A	F	U	L
C	N	V	R	A	A	T	A	A	C	D	N	K	O	A	W
V	U	E	E	I	T	Q	G	P	G	W	N	E	T	Z	P
L	W	R	C	L	E	E	Z	J	O	N	M	S	D	M	P
F	A	H	I	C	R	W	T	N	M	R	Y	B	D	N	F
O	T	E	P	T	D	T	S	B	A	R	A	K	Q	F	Z
C	E	V	I	B	R	Y	R	M	C	C	O	T	Z	S	S
E	R	W	T	C	O	N	D	E	N	S	A	T	I	O	N
A	V	A	A	L	P	T	C	C	L	Y	C	Q	H	O	E
N	A	B	T	T	L	I	P	S	G	X	L	K	T	E	N
W	P	B	I	C	E	B	J	R	I	Q	O	O	J	R	B
F	O	M	O	Q	T	R	E	J	O	G	U	U	M	A	R
D	R	O	N	Y	T	N	C	J	W	F	D	A	I	I	U
W	Q	T	H	N	E	V	W	Y	N	G	E	W	Z	N	N
T	I	F	E	R	W	I	H	U	C	R	M	N	L	I	O
W	D	N	S	E	A	J	S	K	T	L	R	N	G	Z	F
X	H	Q	D	Q	Y	M	J	S	H	W	E	D	F	P	F

Answer: B. Your clothes washer! Top-loading washers account for 21% of Total Daily Water Use.



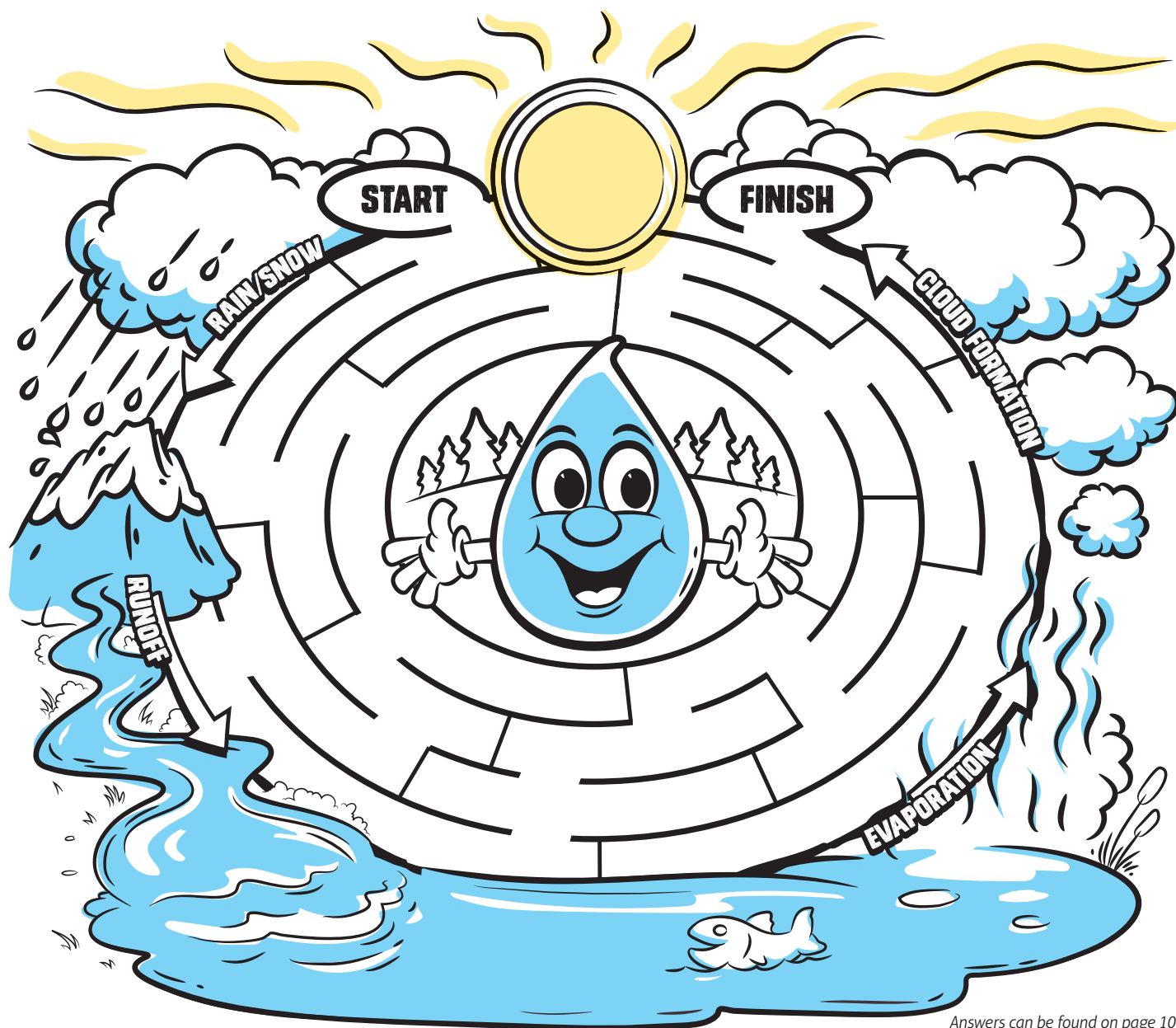
How many times can you find the word **WATER** in the boxes to the right?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ times.



How does water get from one place to another?

How much traveling has "Hydro", our friendly water drop, done in his lifetime? A lot! And here's why- Hydro is a small piece in a large, ever changing journey called the water cycle. This is the cycle water goes through. Can you help Hydro through the cycle?





## 10 easy ways to engage with the City

- 1 Regularly visit the City of Meridian website at [www.meridiancity.org](http://www.meridiancity.org)
- 2 "Like" us on Facebook; "Follow" us on Twitter.
- 3 Visit [www.meridiancity.org/register.aspx](http://www.meridiancity.org/register.aspx) to subscribe and receive the City's bi weekly e-newsletter and other City documents and meeting notices via e-mail.
- 4 Watch weekly Meridian City Council meetings online, live streamed from the City website.
- 5 Read the Mayor's columns in the Valley Times and Meridian Press newspapers.
- 6 Attend Meridian Town Hall meetings, Coffee with the Mayor gatherings and other City-sponsored events.
- 7 Volunteer for the City. Find out about available opportunities by contacting our volunteer coordinator at 846-7340.
- 8 Consider applying to serve on a City board, commission, committee, or task force. Call 888-4433 to inquire about current vacancies or to put an application on file.
- 9 Participate in City-sponsored organizations such as the Mayor's Anti-Drug Coalition, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, or the Faith Ambassador Council.
- 10 Invite someone from the City to speak to your neighborhood association or other civic group on a topic of interest.



Above: Water production Staff conduct maintenance activities in an underground pressure regulating valve station.

## Where Does Your Water Come From?

The answer? From the Boise Aquifer through 19 individual wells owned and operated by the City. The water is drawn up through the wells, disinfected and distributed into our water system through over 450 miles of distribution lines. This system services over 29,300 residential and commercial connections across five pressure zones, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Water Division staff continually monitor and perform water quality tests (over 1,200 last year) in order to ensure water quality within our distribution system is maintained. This ensures all drinking water delivered to you, our customer, meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and is safe to drink. Last year, Meridian used 3.2 billion gallons of water for its commercial and residential needs.



## Get Involved in Your Water

We at the City of Meridian value your input on matters regarding your drinking water. You, as a citizen, have a voice and can participate in City Council meetings held Tuesday evenings at Meridian City Hall, located at 33 E Broadway.

Council meeting agendas can be found online at: [www.meridiancity.org](http://www.meridiancity.org), and are posted in the lobby of City Hall.

Live streamed meetings are video archived on the City of Meridian website at [www.meridiancity.org](http://www.meridiancity.org).

You can also register online at [www.meridiancity.org](http://www.meridiancity.org) to subscribe for the latest agendas and minutes to automatically be e-mailed to you. And don't forget, check with us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates and information on current and upcoming City events.

## Council Changes

This year saw the addition of two new Council seats and three new Council members. We would like to welcome Joe Borton, Genesis Milam and Luke Cavener and encourage you to attend a meeting to meet them and your City Council.





Above: Operations staff conduct inspections on Water tower piping

## Protecting Your Water Infrastructure...

Replacing water mains, repairing leaks and maintaining fire hydrants and many other vital components of the City's water distribution system are essential to ensuring the delivery of clean, safe drinking water to our community. As a water purveyor, protecting and maintaining our drinking water infrastructure is a critical part of our job and our number one priority. However, when it comes to maintaining water lines, our responsibility only goes so far. Like other utilities, our ability to perform repairs ends at the metering device which is typically at the street side of the home's property line. Beyond this point, the water and sewer lines are part of the property/home and become the responsibility of the owner.

These private lines are often overlooked, but are just as vital as the City lines. These lines and related equipment should be regularly maintained to prevent failures and ensure they are adequately protected. Here are a few tips on what you can do to help protect and maintain your home's water lines plus help you prepare for winter and be ready to respond quickly should a leak develop on your property.

- Know where your water shut off valve is in the event of a leak (usually in the crawl space). If you have a leak, you can shut the water off faster than we can.
- Have your water softener or filter serviced regularly.
- Winterize (drain) backflow devices to prevent freezing.
- Close your garage doors during cold weather to prevent freezing and damage to pipes.
- Keep your meter clear of shrubs to allow access during an emergency.
- Flush your hot water heater annually to remove sediment and buildup.
- Check your toilets for leaks. Add a few drops of food coloring or dye tabs in the back tank. Let the colored water sit for a while and check to see if color shows up in the bowl. If so, this is a good indicator of a leak.
- Make sure you blow out your sprinkler lines in the fall.



### Backflow Reminder...

A cross connection is a link between the City of Meridian drinking water and potentially contaminated water (such as irrigation). These connections pose a serious risk. You may have a connection to City water for irrigation purposes in which no other source of water is available on your property. These connections are protected using backflow prevention devices.

As a reminder, the City of Meridian enforces the ordinances concerning cross connections and backflow prevention devices. These ordinances include requiring annual testing compliance for backflow devices.

Dual Connections are physical connections between potable water and pressurized irrigation lines or other outside water sources such as wells. These connections are not allowed in the City of Meridian and must be removed, per City Resolution 10-763.

If you have any questions, please contact us at:

208-888-5242 or by email at: [backflow@meridiancity.org](mailto:backflow@meridiancity.org)





## Know what's below. Call before you dig.

If you plan on doing any excavation on your property (i.e. planting trees, etc.), please contact DIGLINE at 811. This single call will connect you to Idaho's one call underground notification center which, in turn, will notify all of the utility providers in your area. Upon receiving notice, they will then mark their facilities around your property within 48 hours at no cost to you.

This single call ensures that, prior to breaking ground, you know where all utilities are on your property and limits the possibility of accidentally damaging a utility line causing injury to yourself or those around you.

Below is a chart showing the unique colors used by utilities that represent the locations of their underground lines. These colors will be marked/painted on the ground.

- WATER
- SEWER
- GAS - OIL
- ELECTRIC
- PROPOSED EXCAVATION
- COMMUNICATION CATV
- TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS



Above: Operations staff exercise and flush a fire hydrant

## Flushing Program...

Occasionally you may notice that your water is slightly discolored or brownish in appearance. This color is caused when a disinfectant (chlorine) mixes with water containing iron or manganese. This chemical reaction causes the minerals to then precipitate out of the water and settle on the bottom of the water lines. During increased water flows, such as flowing hydrants, these deposits can be stirred up and carried to homes in the form of brown water. Although this water may have some color, it is not harmful and is safe for consumption.

As part of an on-going water quality program, the Water Division runs a routine year-round flushing program. Flushing protects all the water within the system by clearing out all of the buildup of these sediments within the system to minimize occurrences of discolored water. We actively flush the entire water system twice annually and at random points monthly throughout the year.

Please check your water prior to washing clothes to prevent discolored water from potentially damaging your laundry. If you do encounter brown water, run your cold water taps for several minutes and it should clear up. Also, try to avoid running dishwashers during these brown water times to prevent getting unwanted stains.

We do our best to notify you prior to flushing events by sending out flyers and email notifications to customers who have provided us an email address.

If you would like to be notified of flushing in your area, please contact us at 208-888-5242 or e-mail [water@meridiancity.org](mailto:water@meridiancity.org) and let us know you want to be added to our flushing list.

## What we are doing to improve your water quality

To remedy the occurrences of discolored water, the City is currently pursuing permanent long term treatment solutions throughout our system. Construction of two new water filtration facilities is under way, at differing stages completion, near the center and northwest areas of town. These facilities are the first of several to come, aimed specifically to reduce our waters' Iron and Manganese levels, the main cause of our discolored water occurrences. Completion of these facilities is scheduled for 2015.

Additionally, we are also exploring alternative treatment techniques to further increase our options and provide the optimal treatment process for each of our unique water sources. Of course, these studies, and construction of such complicated treatment facilities take time and resources. We appreciate your patience as we strive to improve the water quality delivered to your home.



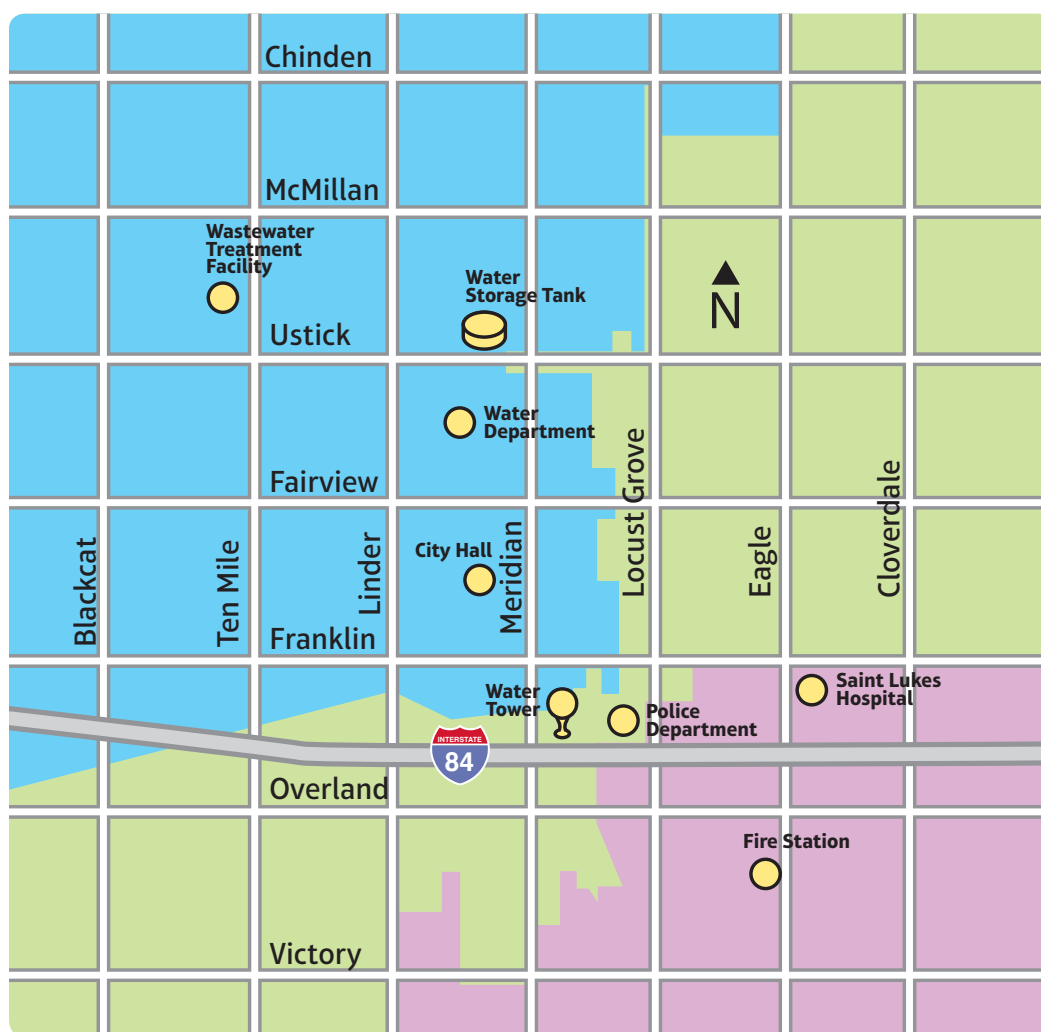
Water treatment facility

## Water Quality in Your Neighborhood

If you are installing or have a water softener, aquarium or pool that may require certain water quality data for operation or setup, please use this chart and map in assisting your setup or operating needs. Just roughly locate where you are on the map and use the corresponding chart to answer your water quality needs. If you have additional water quality questions, please feel free to contact our office at 208-888-5242 or email us at: [water@meridiancity.org](mailto:water@meridiancity.org). We would be glad to assist you.

Zone	Hardness*	Iron	Sodium	TDS**
Zone 2	4.3 Grains per Gallon	0.83 PPM	16 PPM	134 PPM
Zone 3	6.6 Grains per Gallon	0.67 PPM	27 PPM	207 PPM
Zone 4	7.9 Grains per Gallon	0.15 PPM	94 PPM	359 PPM

Figures on this Chart are the average levels of minerals from wells that contribute to each zone.

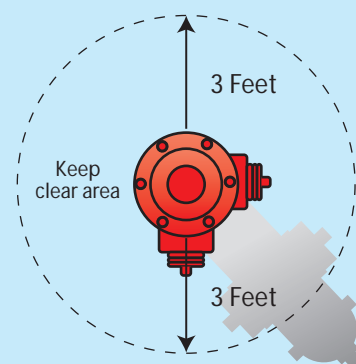


\* Dissolved calcium and magnesium, which may cause deposits on fixtures and dishes. Our average water hardness is 106 ppm or 6.16 grains per gallon. According to the National research Council, hard water generally contributes a small amount toward total human dietary needs of calcium and magnesium.

\*\* **Total Dissolved Solids:** Classified a secondary contaminant by the Environmental Protection Agency and a suggested maximum is 500 ppm. Concerns with secondary standards relate to aesthetic or cosmetic quality of the water rather than health concerns. TDS can give water a murky appearance and detract from the taste and quality of the water.

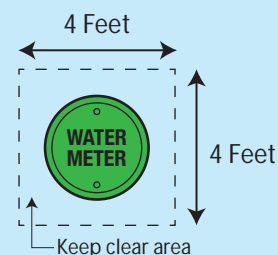
## Smooth Operations During Emergencies:

Clearance around your City water infrastructure such as meters and fire hydrants is critical for ensuring the safety of emergency workers, citizens and staff. When these features are obstructed, valuable time is lost on gaining access instead of concentrating on the emergency at hand. With over 4,400 fire hydrants and 29,000 meters, we need your help to keep these facilities free from obstructions such as trees, shrubs, and fencing to keep them ready for use. Here is the minimum clear space we require around them.



### Fire Hydrant Clearance:

Maintain a (3) three foot clearance around the circumference of the fire hydrant. This is per the International Fire Code Section 508.5.5.



### Water Meter Clearance:

Maintain a 4 x 4 square foot clearance with the meter at the center. This is per City Code Section 9-1-33.





**1** gallon  
per minute  
= 1,440 gallons  
per day or 10,080  
gallons per week!

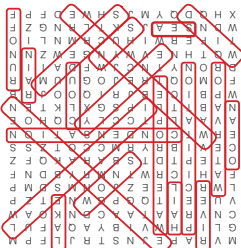
**1/2** gallon  
per minute  
= 720 gallons per  
day or 5,040 gallons  
per week!

**The average toilet  
leaks 1/2 gallon per  
minute.**

A good way to check for a toilet  
leak is to add a couple drops of  
food coloring to the  
back of your toilet,  
wait 10-15 minutes  
and check for color in  
your bowl. If color  
appears, you  
have a leak.



The word water appears 15 times.



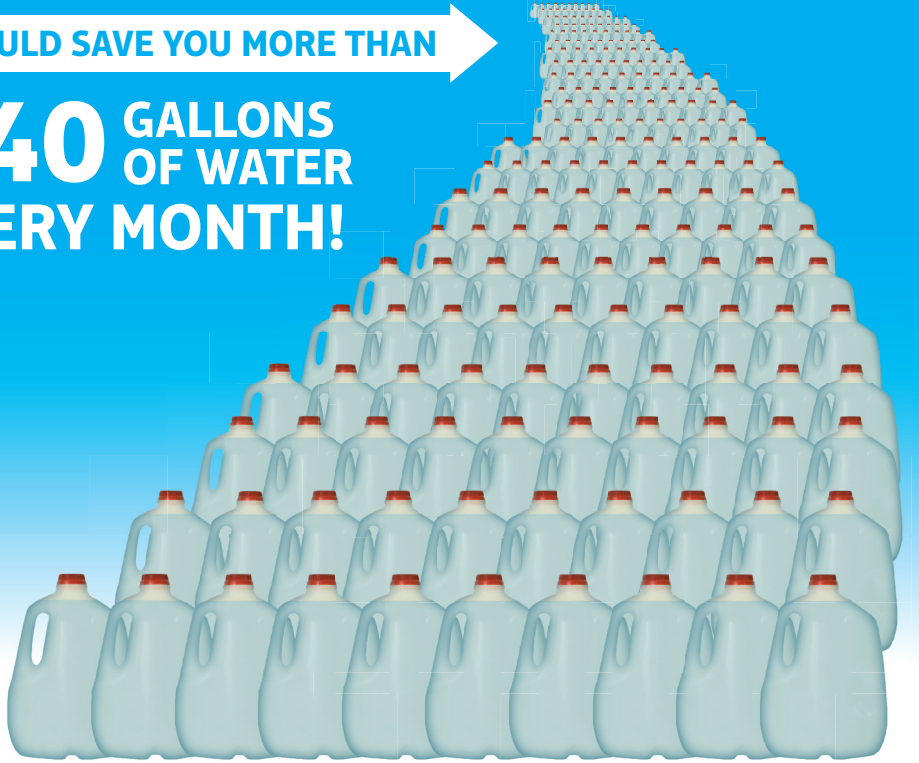
Answers from page 5

# Water Conservation at Home

**Turn off the faucet  
WHILE BRUSHING YOUR TEETH OR SHAVING.**

IT COULD SAVE YOU MORE THAN

**240** GALLONS  
OF WATER  
EVERY MONTH!



## inside the home

- Repair leaky toilets and faucets immediately! Test to see if your toilet is leaking by placing a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl after 15 minutes, you have a leak.
- Use your water meter to check for leaks. Turn off all faucets and any appliance that uses water. Read your water meter. Wait 15 minutes and read it again. If the dial moved, chances are you have a leak. Call a plumber to help you find your leak and fix it right away.
- Install water efficient toilets or retrofit older toilets by putting a displacement device in the tank.

## outside the home

- Select plants appropriate for Southwestern Idaho to minimize the need to water. If you don't know what those plants are, consult a nursery or call the University of Idaho Extension Office.
- Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid overwatering some and under watering others.
- To reduce evaporation, place mulch around plants.
- Check the moisture around the root zone of your lawn or garden before watering. Use a spade or trowel to lift up the soil. If it is still moist 2 inches down, you don't need to water.
- Add compost to your soil to improve its moisture retention.
- Use sprinklers for larger gardens. Water smaller planting beds by hand to avoid waste.



## why fixing leaks around your home is important

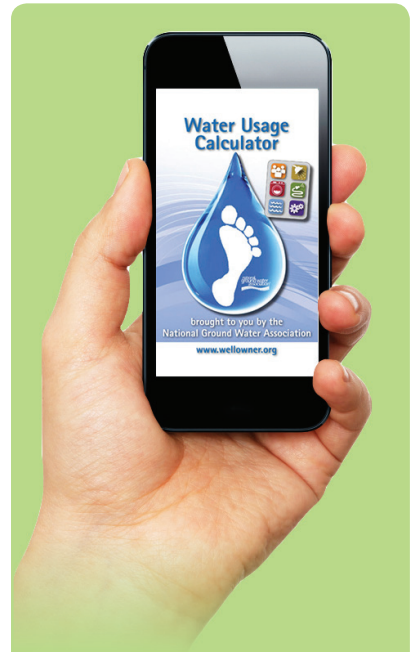
Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting and conserving our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water, but can also save you money by reducing your water bill.

**One conservation measure that can have the biggest impact is to fix all leaks. Even the smallest leak can have a big effect on your water usage. Here are some leak facts that may surprise you:**

- An 1/8 inch hole in a metal pipe, at 40 psi, leaks 2,500 gallons of water in 24 hours.
- A leak the size of a pinhead can waste 360,000 gallons per year, enough to fill 12,000 bathtubs to the overflow mark.
- A leaking toilet can use 90,000 gallons of water in 30 days.
- A dripping faucet or hose bib can lose up to 180 gallons a month or 2,160 gallons per year.
- About one in every 20 pools has a leak.
- About one in every 318 homes or buildings has a leak.
- A typical toilet leak at today's rate can add \$500 to a single water bill.
- One trip through a car wash uses 150 gallons of drinking water.
- Collecting water for gardening from the faucet while waiting for hot water saves about 250 gallons of water a month.
- Using a broom instead of a hose to clean a sidewalk saves 150 gallons of water.

Source: American Leak Detection and Water Online.

Information on other ways that you can help conserve water can be found at our website <http://meridiancity.org/Environmental/>



**The key to conservation is understanding your current amount of water usage.**

A free National Ground Water Association iPhone and iPad app that allows users to calculate their household water consumptions is an excellent tool to help consumers reduce water use and costs.

- If you're on a pressurized irrigation system, use the average of 15 gallons per minute (GPM).
- If you're watering with a garden hose, the standard 5/8-inch garden hose delivers 17 GPM.
- Go to the iTunes app store and search for "Water Use Calculator."

For more information on water conservation, visit the City of Meridian's Environmental Division at: [www.meridiancity.org/environmental](http://www.meridiancity.org/environmental)



## Water Quality Data

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal, state, and local standards. That State of Idaho requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are generally stable, not expected to vary from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. These tables show the results of monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31, 2013, unless otherwise noted. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact us at [water@meridiancity.org](mailto:water@meridiancity.org) /.

PWS ID # ID4010097

### INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Violation (Y/N)	MCL	MCLG	Lo Level Detected	Hi Level Detected	Test Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	N	10	N/A	ND	2	Sept 2013	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	N	2	2	ND	.10	Dec 2013	Discharge of drillings wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	N	4	4	0.12	0.53	Sept 2013	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth: discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	10	10	ND	4.9	Nov 2013	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six month of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Cadmium	N	5	5	ND	1.1	Dec 2013	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints.
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### RADIONUCLIDES

Gross Alpha	N	15	15	ND	13.77	Sept 2013	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium	N	5	5	ND	4.87	Oct 2013	
Uranium	N	30	30	ND	50.5*	Sept 2013	

\* One sample of 1,560 taken system wide in 2013 exceeded the MCL.

Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.

### LEAD AND COPPER

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	90th Percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites above Action Level	Test Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead	N	5	15	0	0	Jul 2012	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	N	0.16	1.30	1.30	0	Jul 2012	

### DISINFECTANT BY-PRODUCTS

Contaminant	Violation (Y/N)	MCL	Chlorine Annual Average	Hi Level Detected	Test Date	Likely Source of Contamination
HAA	N	60	.30	ND	Oct 2013	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
THM (total)	N	80	.30	8.1	June 2013	
CHLORINE	N	4	.30	1.72	Aug 2013	Water Additive used to control microbes.

### BACTERIA

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	MCL	MCLG	Highest % positive in a month	Total # positive	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	N	>5%	0	2	3	Naturally present in the environment.

## Informational Facts About Drinking Water from the EPA

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at:

1-800-426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/>.

In order to ensure your tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribed regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Contaminants that may be present in source water BEFORE we treat it include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salt and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic water discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activity.

### SPECIAL HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants** in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA / Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/>

### DEFINITIONS TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

**(AL) Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a community water system shall follow.

**(HAA) Haloacetic Acids:** By-products created when disinfectants used to treat water react with organic and inorganic material in source water.

**(MCL) Maximum Contaminant Level:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**(MCLG) Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow a margin of safety.

**(MPL) Maximum Permissible Level.**

**(ND) Non-Detect:** Not detected in sample.

**(PPM) Parts per million** or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

**(PPB) Parts per billion** or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

**(pCi/L) Picocuries per liter:** A measure of radioactivity

**Primary Standards:** Federal drinking water regulations for substances that are health related. Water suppliers must meet all primary drinking water standards.

**Secondary Standards:** Federal drinking water measurements for substances that do not have an impact on health. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as taste, odor and appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

**(THM) Trihalomethanes**, chemical compounds that can be formed when water is disinfected with chlorine.

## Lead - What You Should Know.

The City of Meridian, along with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the USEPA, are concerned about the lead in your drinking water. In 2009, the City of Meridian completed a sampling event for this contaminant and is pleased to report that the results did not exceed the allowable MCL. Even though there was no detectable lead in any of Meridian's water sources, lead is a serious contaminant that can be found in the water of some homes.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

The City of Meridian is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in private plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.