

TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP PREVENT A TRAGEDY

→ Community Effort



| Drowning is the second-leading cause of death in children ages 5 to 14, according to Safe Kids Worldwide

| Constant adult supervision for children in or around

water is the number one safety tool against drowning

| Parents and caregivers can teach children the dangers of irrigation canals. When near a canal, please take every safety precaution

→ Health & Safety



| Stay off canal roads and avoid entering the irrigation canal at all times, even when canals are empty

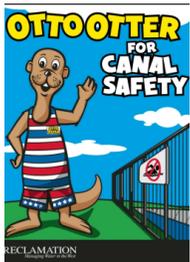
| Always walk your bike and leash your pets near canals

| Do not ingest irrigation

water and avoid letting children and pets run through the sprinklers. Irrigation water is raw river water and may contain harmful microbial contaminants

| Do not use irrigation water to fill pools or pet bowls

→ Otto Otter



Otto Otter is the Bureau of Reclamation's canal safety mascot. Kennewick Irrigation District offers canal safety presentations aimed at educating elementary aged children on the dangers of canals.

If you would like this message brought to your school or after-school program, contact Matthew Berglund, Public Relations Coordinator, at [509.586.6012 ext. 128](tel:509.586.6012) or by visiting kid.org/contact. Coloring books are also available with school presentations and accessible online at:

usbr.gov/pn/about/otto/graphics/coloringbook.pdf.



CANAL SAFETY

Canals are not for play -- stay away!

Canals are specifically designed to move water to homes, farms and businesses for irrigation and although they look like an inviting place to swim or play, the water can be quite hazardous. Swift undercurrents and turbulence can also drag you under and keep you there, even if you are an excellent swimmer.

The surface of the water may look calm but the speed of the current can vary depending on the location, sometimes reaching up to 3 miles per hour, or 4.5 feet per second. As a public safety example in 2012, a child's shoe was dropped into the canal to provide a visual of how fast the water travels. In 2 minutes, the shoe traveled 540 feet and within 5 minutes, it was about a quarter mile away from where it was dropped!

Debris can also collect in a canal, unseen in the dark water. Examples include: Weeds, branches, tires, chunks of metal and yes, even cars!

The best way to be safe from canals is to stay away. It's not only dangerous for children; it's hazardous for everyone, including your pets. Stay out.

If you see someone fall into a canal, do not attempt to rescue them yourself. Algae can build up along the walls of a canal, making it extremely slippery and hard to climb out. Instead, call 911 immediately.