

WATER DISTRICT NO. 65 ← *file*

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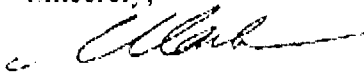
Mr. Ed Obermeyer
8777 Bill Burns Road
Eminett, Idaho 83617

Dear Ed:

In response to your question the other day regarding permits required of rural fire departments in order to utilize irrigation water for fire protection, I visited with Steve Lester, acting Western Regional Manager for the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and he indicated that water use for fire protection purposes in the State of Idaho was legal without a permit or water right. The only possible action by a rural fire department would be to ask permission of the individual ditch companies or irrigation districts within the area of responsibility in order to utilize their ditches or canals for fire protection of any surrounding properties. Steve also stated that a rural fire department may take water directly from the river, if necessary, for fire protection purposes without a permit or water right under Idaho law.

If you need further assistance with this matter, or have questions about the above response, please give me a call at (208) 642-4465.

Sincerely,



Mark Limbaugh, Watermaster

cc: Steve Lester, IDWR