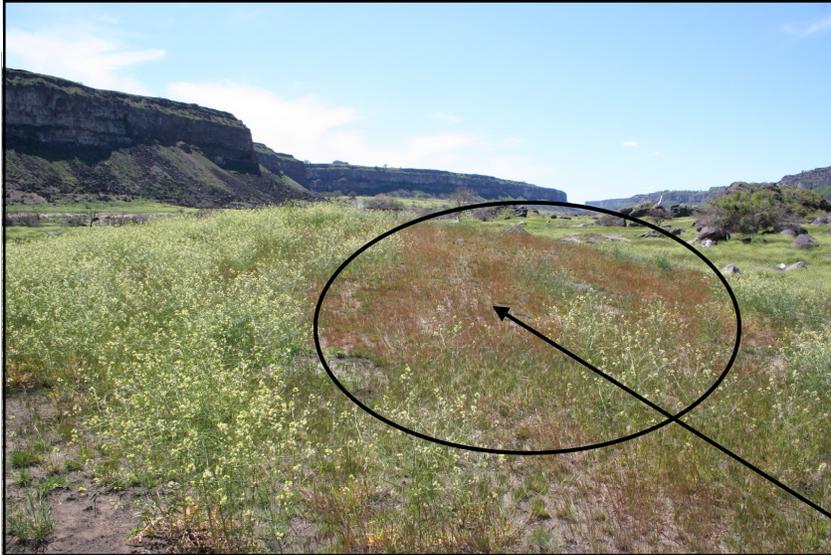


A new start for Auger Falls



Auger Falls, a 550-acre property purchased by the city in 2002, burned in a fast moving wildfire in 2010. Thanks to the efforts and donations of many volunteers and groups, much of it was reseeded in September.

Here is a picture of Auger Falls 2011. Clearly the area has a healthy stand of Mustard Weed, but in this picture the **dark area** shows where native seeds planted

this past autumn are taking hold. It takes several years before native plants will successfully compete against invasive species, but the beauty of using native species is that eventually that new growth will become naturally prominent in the landscape. In addition, the city has plans for more reseeding this coming fall.

Police warn residents of current commonplace scams

Along with the summer season come certain types of crime that make it easy for the less-than-trustworthy to prey upon the unsuspecting. The Twin Falls Police Department wants the public to take extra precautions when strangers come calling, whether at the front door, on the phone or through the email. If you encounter any of the following scams that TFPD has been seeing lately, call 3-1-1 to report them.

Door-to-door salesmen -- These types of sales were more common 30 or 40 years ago, but not so much these days when a majority of households have both parents working outside the home during the day. This means that offspring should be advised not to open the door to anyone they don't know. There is always the chance that a stranger knocking at the door isn't on the up and up.

It's not illegal to try to make door-to-door sales – as long as the salesperson can provide a vendor's license purchased from the city of Twin Falls and can also provide personal ID and verification that he or she works for a reputable company. Senior citizens, in particular, can be vulnerable to door-to-door scams.

To help protect yourself from scammers who arrive at the front door with empty promises, here are a few tips:

- Never sign anything in haste.
- Never agree to purchase anything without first checking out the legitimacy of the business.
- Most importantly, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. *(over)*



Address:
321 2nd Ave. E
P.O. Box 1907
Twin Falls, ID 83303-1907

Emergency phone: 911
Non-emergency phone: 311
City Hall: 735-7287
www.tfid.org

Currently local police are getting complaints about people trying to sell their skills to repave a driveway/sidewalk or do a roofing job in one day. Invariably these con artists are requiring money up front for materials and such. The state of Idaho requires a license for contractors who do this kind of work, and you have the right to ask to see it. Plus, a reputable contractor will bill after the job is done.

Phone scams -- There are too many phone scams to write about in one short newsletter, but there is one hard-and-fast rule you should follow: Never give your credit card information or bank account information to anyone over the phone or online if you are not sure if that person is who he/she claims to be. If you do give out that kind of information, you should be the person initiating the phone call in order to help make sure you know who you are talking to.

Lately there has been an odd twist to this: Someone calls and warns the person who answers the phone to hurry to the computer and click onto a warning to follow certain procedures to avoid an imminent virus attack. When the person actually does click onto the virus warning, the computer goes haywire, plus the owner of the computer has just handed over critical credit card and personal information stored on the computer to a thief.

Emails – There are many kinds of scams sent through email, but “phishing” emails are perhaps the most dangerous. Phishing is a way of attempting to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by masquerading as trustworthy entities such as banks, social web sites, auction sites, online payment processors, even the Internal Revenue Service. The email will direct the public to websites that look almost identical to the authentic site the emailer purports to represent. Here are a few tips to help you avoid big trouble:

- Do not respond to unsolicited (spam) e-mail.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mail.
- Be cautious of e-mail claiming to contain pictures or information in attached files, as the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders. Scan the attachments for viruses if possible.

Sealcoating to take place during late July

During late July, sealcoating will be taking place on a number of streets throughout town as part of routine maintenance to extend the life of the existing pavement and improve surface traction. This procedure will pose little disruption to traffic.

First, city workers will seal cracks in the existing streets, and then later in the month for about a week, a contractor will apply the seal coat material to the selected streets. A few nights later, street sweepers will come through to remove any excess material. Residents and business owners will be notified when these operations are to take place at their locations.