



CITY OF MERIDIAN

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MERIDIAN OPENS NEW PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER – FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE AREA

Meridian, ID – The Meridian Police and Fire Departments will hold an official ribbon cutting and public tours of the new Public Safety Training Center on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 10:30am. The facility is located at 1223 E. Watertower Ave. Meridian, Idaho 83642. It is the first of its kind to be built in the valley – giving public safety agencies across the area the ability to train locally instead of out of state.

“This new facility will significantly improve the efficiencies in training our officers. We can now train on site and alongside our fire personnel, other agencies, even our public works crews. The combined trainings are hugely beneficial when preparing for tactical responses,” said Chief Jeff Lavey, Meridian Police Department.

The new training center features four classrooms, a defensive tactics mat room, simulators to create real situations for training, a K-9 agility course and it houses a mobile command post.

“Meridian is ranked one of the safest cities in the state of Idaho and we want to keep it that way. This new facility helps us maintain the high level of safety our residents are accustomed to. We appreciate the community partnerships that will enhance this facility in the years to come,” said Mayor Tammy de Weerd, City of Meridian.

This fall, the Ada County Highway District will install traffic lights at the facility, providing for a training space involving traffic incidents.

The cost of the new facility that included an addition to the main police department building and a remodel was \$5 million. The second phase of the training center includes construction of a scenario village – a partnership with the West Ada School District and the Ada Professional Technical Center. The cost and funding for phase two is yet to be determined.

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The City of Meridian is located in the center of the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho. Founded in 1893 and incorporated as a city in 1903, Meridian is now one of Idaho's largest and fastest growing communities. Meridian is cited by Money Magazine as one of its Top 50 Best Places to Live, and by America's Promise Alliance and ING as one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People. For more information, visit www.meridiacity.org.