

Fort Smith's Water Conservation Program

Fort Smith maintains year-round water conservation measures which are intended to prevent the wasteful use of water. Fort Smith also has a Two-Phase water conservation plan in the event its water supply lake levels drop due to the lack of rainfall.

Phase I will go into effect when lake levels drop from 91,100 acre-feet (100%) to a capacity of 55,000 acre-feet (60%) and will continue until lake levels remain above 56,000 acre-feet (61%) for 15 consecutive days.

Phase II will go into effect when the total usable water storage decreases to 36,000 acre-feet (39%). The restrictions and prohibitions of Phase II will be removed when the lake levels remain above 41,000 acre-feet (45%) for 15 consecutive days.

Whenever an emergency exists as determined by the City Administrator, or his designated agent, by reason of a shortage of water, limited distribution facilities or any other circumstances which make it necessary to immediately conserve water, there is hereby delegated to the City Administrator, or his designated agent, the authority to implement the conservation measures of Phase I and/or Phase II and other conservation measures which are necessary to maintain potable water for essential public health and safety functions.

These emergency measures shall remain in effect until the next regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting of the Board of Directors at which time the Board shall decide whether it is necessary to continue the said measures.

Listed below are the things that you cannot do under the year-round water conservation program.

During time periods when water conservation measures are not in effect, the following limitations or prohibited uses of water are in effect:

- (1) No person shall use water for the irrigation or watering of lawns, turf, shrubs, plants, trees or gardens to such an extent as to allow water to escape from user's premises onto public property, such as alleys or streets, nor onto another person's property.
- (2) No person shall irrigate or water lawns, turf, shrubs, plants, trees or gardens between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (not applicable to greens and tee boxes on golf courses).
- (3) No person during the course of cleaning or washing motor vehicles, aircraft, building exteriors, sidewalks, walkways, driveways, patios, decks, fences, parking lots, tennis courts, or other similar types of hard surfaces, with a hose or other equipment, will allow the flow of water to be used or uncontrolled at the point of use, or to continue if unattended, such that water is wasted.
- (4) No person shall use potable water for any construction activity that can be performed using non-potable water unless approved by the Director of Utilities, or his designated representative, and, if

required by same, shall be conducted under the direct supervision of an employee of the City of Fort Smith Utility Department.

(5) No person shall use water from a fire hydrant unless approved by the Director of Utilities, or his designated representative, and, if required by same, shall be conducted under the direct supervision of an employee of the City of Fort Smith Utility Department. Any such use shall be registered through a City owned meter issued under a permit for a specific use, time period, location and, if further specified, for a maximum volume of use.

Phase I Conservation Measures

An initial conservation phase (Phase I) will go into effect when lake levels drop from 91,100 acre-feet (100%) to a capacity of 55,000 acre-feet (60%) and will continue until lake levels remain above 56,000 acre-feet (61%) for 15 consecutive days.

Phase I conservation measures consist of the following restrictions and prohibitions on the use of City water:

(1) The following uses of water are permitted at locations with even-numbered addresses on even-numbered days of the month only and at locations with odd numbers addresses on odd-numbered days of the month only:

Lawn watering; watering of shrubs, plants, trees and gardens; the washing of motor vehicles, trailers, airplanes or boats (not applicable to commercial car washes); filling swimming pools or fountains; and washing of building exteriors.

(2) No person shall use water as provided for in (1) to such an extent as to allow water to escape from his premises onto public property, such as alleys or streets, nor onto another person's property.

(3) Golf course watering and other commercial irrigation from City sources shall be done only to the extent necessary to preserve turf and other plant life and at such times during the day as to minimize water loss due to evaporation.

(4) The use of water from fire hydrants at any time for construction purposes, fire drills, or routine hydrant testing is prohibited. Only non-potable water may be used for dirt compaction, earth moving operations, or street base course construction.

(5) The washing of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, patios, parking lots, concrete tennis courts, and other hard-surfaced areas by hosing or by use of water directly from faucets or other City sources is prohibited. Food processing and food service establishments may engage in such use of water only to the extent necessary to maintain and preserve the public health, and in compliance with any state or federal regulations. Restaurants and other food service establishments may hose or wash only walkways immediately adjacent to entrances and not beyond ten (10) feet of entrances and not beyond ten (10) feet of garbage facilities, food delivery or food serving areas.

(6) No person shall irrigate or water lawns, turf, shrubs, plants, trees or gardens between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (not applicable to greens and tee boxes on golf courses).

(7) The City shall have the authority to install flow restriction devices on those lines to contract water users which exceed their contractual allocation. Installation of flow, restriction devices shall require specific approval of the Board of Directors of the City of Fort Smith before installation.

Phase II Conservation Measures

An advanced conservation phase (Phase II) shall go into effect when the following conditions occur when the total usable water storage decreases to a 36,000 acre-feet (39%). The restrictions and prohibitions of Phase II shall be removed when the lake levels remain above 41,000 acre-feet (45%) for 15 consecutive days.

Phase II conservation measures consist of all Phase I measures PLUS the following restrictions and prohibitions on the use of City water:

(1) The watering of shrubs, plants, trees and gardens is permitted only by hand held hose and should be limited to the minimum amounts necessary to sustain plant life. Such watering is permitted at locations with even numbered addresses on even numbered days of the month only and at locations with odd numbered addresses on odd numbered days of the month only. All lawn and turf watering from City sources is prohibited.

(2) Golf course watering and other commercial irrigation from City sources shall be done only to the extent necessary to preserve turf and other plant life. Golf courses are permitted to water only greens and tee boxes from City sources. Golf course fairway and rough watering and school football and baseball field watering from City sources is specifically prohibited.

(3) All washing of motor vehicles, trailers, airplanes, boats or building exteriors is prohibited, except at commercial car washes and licensed commercial vehicle dealerships. Licensed commercial dealerships shall limit washing to Tuesday and Friday only. The filling of swimming pools or outdoor fountains and outdoor fountain operation is prohibited.