

Appendix D
Upper Shenandoah River Basin
Drought Emergency Responses and Mandatory Non-Essential Uses of Water

Upon entering into the Drought Emergency stage, these regional actions are to be taken by the respective localities. At a minimum, the listed water conservation measures will be encouraged during periods of declared Drought Emergency. These measures will be implemented on an individual locality basis when an Upper Shenandoah River Basin local government declares a drought emergency stage. It is intended that water conservation measures listed will generally result in reductions of water use of 10 to 15%.

Drought Emergency Responses (Locality, Commercial, Individual)

- A Drought Emergency notification shall be publicized through the general news media or any other appropriate method for making such notification public.
- Localities will include water conservation information on their website.
- Localities will contact the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) office when the Drought Warning stage is implemented. The CSPDC will update the locality's drought status on the regional drought website.
- All citizens, including private well users, will initiate the mandatory non-essential water use restrictions listed below and follow the water conservation measures in Appendices C & D.
- Public waterworks and self supplied water users who withdraw more than 10,000 gallons per day will initiate the mandatory non-essential water use restrictions listed below and follow the water conservation measures in Appendices C & D.
- All local government offices and institutions will initiate the mandatory non-essential water use restrictions listed below with the goal of reducing water usage by 10 to 15%.
- Localities will be authorized to adopt local ordinances to enforce the mandatory non-essential water use restrictions listed below and to establish, collect, and retain fees for violations of these restrictions.
- Locality staff will continue to monitor drought indicators on a monthly basis and report significant changes to local officials.
- All users continue conservation until water storage (source & distribution) is replenished.
- Commercial customers are to follow the mandatory non-essential water use restrictions listed below, where appropriate.
- All other residential, business and industrial water users; whether supplied by public water supplies, self-supplied sources, or private water wells; who do not normally utilize water for any of the non-essential uses listed below are requested to voluntarily reduce water consumption by at least 10%. This reduction may be the result of elimination of other non-essential water uses, application of water conservation practices, or reduction in essential water uses.

Non-Essential Water Uses

The following non-essential water uses will be prohibited during periods of declared drought emergencies. Below each non-essential use is a list of exceptions. These prohibitions and exceptions will apply to uses from all sources of water and will only be effective on an individual locality basis when an Upper Shenandoah River Basin local government declares a

Drought Emergency. The conservation measures listed in Appendices C and D of the Upper Shenandoah River Basin Drought Preparedness and Response Plan become mandatory during the Drought Emergency stage.

Local governments and public waterworks may impose water use restrictions more or less stringent than the mandatory non-essential water use restrictions listed below consistent with local water supply conditions at any time. Nothing contained in this drought response plan should be construed to limit the powers of the local governments to adopt and enforce local emergency ordinances as necessary to protect the public welfare, safety, and health.

Water use restrictions shall not apply to the agricultural production of food or fiber, the maintenance of livestock including poultry, nor the commercial production of plant materials so long as best management practices are applied to assure the minimum amount of water is utilized.

1. Unrestricted non-commercial watering (public or private)

Lawn Irrigation Exceptions:

- Newly sodded and seeded areas may be irrigated to establish cover on bare ground at the minimum rate necessary for no more than a period of 60 days. Irrigation rates may not exceed one inch of applied water in any 7-day period. Consider delaying seeding or sodding of new lawns.
- Gardens, bedding plants, trees, shrubs and other landscape materials may be watered with hand held containers not exceeding three (3) gallons in capacity. Watering may be done between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. to avoid the heat of the day. Do not use sprinklers.

Golf Course Irrigation Exceptions:

- Tees and greens may be irrigated between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the minimum rate necessary.
- Fairways may be irrigated between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the minimum rate necessary not to exceed one inch of applied water in any ten-day period.
- All allowed golf course irrigation must be applied in a manner to assure that no runoff, puddling or excessive watering occurs.

Athletic Field Irrigation Exceptions:

- Athletic fields may be irrigated between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. at a rate not to exceed one inch per application or more than a total of one inch in multiple applications during any ten-day period. All irrigation water must fall on playing surfaces with no outlying areas receiving irrigation water directly from irrigation heads.
- Athletic fields may be irrigated between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. during necessary overseeding, sprigging or resodding operations at the minimum rate necessary for a period that does not exceed 60 days. Irrigation rates during this restoration period may not exceed one inch of applied water in any 7-day period.

- All allowed athletic field irrigation must be applied in a manner to assure that no runoff, puddling or excessive watering occurs.
- Irrigation is prohibited on athletic fields that are not scheduled for use within the next 120-day period.

2. Use of Fire Hydrants

Exceptions:

- Except for necessary governmental operations such as firefighting, health protection purposes, or certain testing and drills by the fire department as approved by the local government or waterworks operator

3. Washing of paved surfaces such as streets, roads, sidewalks, driveways, garages, parking areas, tennis courts, and patios; flushing of sewers and hydrants

Exceptions:

- Surfaces may be washed with hand held containers not exceeding three (3) gallons in capacity. Washing should not occur during the heat of the day.
- As needed to ensure public health and safety, and approved by the local government or waterworks operator

4. Washing or cleaning of mobile equipment including automobiles, trucks, trailers, and boats

Exceptions:

- Mobile equipment may be washed at car washes that utilize reclaimed water as part of the wash process or reduce water consumption by at least 10% when compared to a similar period when water use restrictions were not in effect. Any facility operating a reclaimed water system must prominently display, in public view, a sign stating that such a recycling system is in operation.
- Mobile equipment may be washed using hand held containers not exceeding three (3) gallons in capacity or hand held hoses equipped with automatic shutoff devices provided that no mobile equipment is washed more than once per calendar month and the minimum amount of water is utilized.
- Automobile dealers and rental agencies may wash cars that are in inventory no more than once per week utilizing hand held containers not exceeding three (3) gallons in capacity, hoses equipped with automatic shutoff devices, automated equipment that utilizes reclaimed water as part of the wash process, or automated equipment where water consumption is reduced by at least 10% when compared to a similar period when water use restrictions were not in effect.

5. Use of water for the operation of ornamental fountains, artificial waterfalls, misting machines, and reflecting pools

Exceptions:

- Fountains and other means of aeration necessary to support aquatic life are permitted.

6. Filling and topping off outdoor swimming pools

Exceptions:

- Newly built or repaired pools may be filled to protect their structural integrity.
- Outdoor pools operated by commercial ventures, community associations, recreation associations, and similar institutions open to the public may be refilled as long as:
 - Levels are maintained at mid-skimmer depth or lower,
 - Any visible leaks are immediately repaired,
 - Backwashing occurs only when necessary to assure proper filter operation,
 - Deck areas are washed no more than once per calendar month (except where chemical spills or other health hazards occur),
 - All water features (other than slides) that increase losses due to evaporation are eliminated, and
 - Slides are turned off when the pool is not in operation.
- Swimming pools operated by health care facilities used in relation to patient care and rehabilitation may be filled or topped off.

7. Serving of water in restaurants, clubs, or eating-places

Exceptions:

- May only be allowed at the specific request of the customer.

Severe Drought Emergencies

In some cases, the mandatory non-essential water use restrictions may not be sufficient to protect the supplies of an individual public waterworks. When an individual waterworks' sources are so depleted as to threaten public health and safety, it may become necessary to ration water within that system in order to assure that water is available to support essential uses. Rationing water is a more severe measure than merely banning nonessential uses of water. Under rationing, each customer is allotted a given amount of water, based on a method of allotment developed by the waterworks or local government. Generally it will be based on a percentage of previous usage or on a specific daily quantity per household. Rationing is more likely to have some effect on welfare than mandatory non-essential use restrictions, because industrial and commercial water uses may be curtailed or eliminated to assure an adequate supply is available for human consumptive uses.

The decision to ration water will typically be made by the local government or waterworks operator. Local government staff will work closely with any entity where water rationing is required to assure that all available State resources are effectively used to support these highly stressed water supply systems. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) is the first point of contact for waterworks or local governments who decide to ration water. VDEM will coordinate the Commonwealth's response and assistance to such entities.