



CITY OF TOMBALL
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
501 James St.
281-290-1400

July 1, 2009

Due to continued extreme water demands, the City of Tomball is urging residents to increase voluntary reductions for non-essential water use to avoid mandatory water restrictions.

The city is now asking customers to use only two of the three specified watering days, reduce watering durations, and avoid car washing and other non-essential water use to further minimize the demand on the city's water system and to help prolong the need to initiate mandatory water restrictions.

The continued high demand on the city's public water system associated with high temperatures and a significant lack of rainfall has caused the city's water demand to exceed 60% and is now approaching 70%.

Based on current demand patterns, the city has determined that it may become necessary to initiate Stage II Mandatory Water Restrictions of the Drought Contingency Plan in order to preserve public health, safety, and welfare.

The city is currently under Stage I of the Drought Contingency Plan. The guidelines for Stage I are as follows;

Drought Contingency Plan – Stage I

Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), and Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of midnight and 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to midnight on designated watering days.

Water customers are requested to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue non-essential water use.

Tips on When to Water

- Selecting two watering days a week and consistently watering in shorter durations only during late evening or early morning hours will effectively sustain lawns and landscape.
- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- Divide your watering cycle into shorter periods and reduce water pressure to reduce runoff and allow for better absorption every time you water.
- Maintaining your plumbing and repairing leaking faucets or toilets, no matter how small the leak appears to be will drastically reduce consumption, not to mention lowering your water bill.
- Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save several gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.
- Apply mulch to garden beds to greatly reduce the evaporation rate from the soil and keep roots cooler in the heat of the summer.
- Add organic material, such as compost to your lawn to improve water retention.
- When water demand is critical, avoid washing cars, hosing off sidewalks, driveways, and patios and any excessive non-essential water use.
- Visit www.lawncare.net for more lawn care tips.

When applying these tips remember city ordinances pertaining to water conservation and drought response shall be followed. The city ordinance pertaining to water waste is effective year-round as described in Tomball City Code, **Section 82-256. Wasting water; vegetative watering.** It shall be unlawful for any person to cause, allow, or otherwise permit water wasting when applying water to grounds, lawns, plants, trees, shrubs, bushes, or other vegetative matter, or when applying water for any landscaping or agricultural purpose of any kind. (Ord. No. 2002-20, § 1, 9-3-02)

Your assistance in conserving water and helping the city continue to preserve public health, safety, and welfare is greatly appreciated. For additional information please contact the City of Tomball Public Works Department at 281-290-1400.