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If you knowingly permit the use of water in violation of the Stage 1 Water Restrictions enacted on Aug. 29, there will be consequences.

According to Ordinance B-789-09, which is part of the City's 2009 Drought Contingency Plan, it is now a violation residents and businesses use City water in a way that has been prohibited by the plan or the amount of water used exceeds what is allowed by the plan.

The first offense for someone who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with the water restrictions is a written warning. The second offense will result in a fine of a minimum of \$250. By the third offense, the fine jumps to not less than \$500. For subsequent offenses, the fine will be a minimum of \$750. Each day water restrictions are violated counts as a new violation. Once the number of offenses exceeds three, the City may discontinue water services, then the owner has to pay a reconnection fee.

The fines outlined in the ordinance do not include court costs, which are an additional \$64, per fine.

With the Stage 1 Water Restrictions, landscape watering is limited to twice a week.

- Residential addresses that end in even numbers (0, 2, 4, 6, and 8) may water on Wednesday and Saturday.
- Residential addresses that end in odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7, and 9) may water on Thursday and Sunday.
- Non-residential addresses (apartments, businesses, parks, medians, etc.) may water on Tuesday and Friday.
- There is no landscape watering on Monday.

Stage 1 Water Restrictions also mean:

- No hosing of paved areas (i.e. sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, patios, or other impervious surfaces) except to alleviate an immediate health/safety hazard.
- No hosing of buildings or structures other than for purposes of fire protection or surface preparation prior to painting.
- Vehicle washing limited to hand-held bucket or hose with positive-pressure shutoff nozzle for quick rinses. Commercial car washes are exempted from this requirement and may continue to operate within normal procedures.

The Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) supplies water to an 11-county area, including Tarrant County. Burleson buys its water from the City of Fort Worth. Fort Worth is supplied by the TRWD. All direct customers and indirect customers of the TRWD are affected by the restrictions.

Stage 1 is enacted when the combined storage capacity of the TRWD reservoirs reaches 75 percent. The four reservoirs are Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake, Cedar Creek and Richland-Chambers. The TRWD also gets water from Lake Benbrook. Fort Worth draws water from Lake Worth.

The TRWD's goal with the Stage 1 Water Restrictions is to lower water use by 5 percent.

According to the City of Burleson's drought contingency plan as well as the TRWD plan, there are exceptions to the Stage 1 Water Restrictions.

Watering by hand is allowed at any time.

Foundations may be watered up to two hours on any day by soaker hose, or drip irrigation system placed within 24 inches of the foundation. The drip irrigation system can not produce a spray of water above the ground.

Newly installed shrubs (first year) and trees (first two years) may be watered up to two hours on any day by handheld hose, drip irrigation, a soaker hose or tree bubbler. Tree watering is limited to an area not to exceed the drip line of the tree.

Establishing new turf is discouraged. If hydro mulch, grass sod, or grass seed is installed to establish a new lawn, there are no watering restrictions for the first 30 days while it is being established. After that, the watering restrictions apply. This does not include over seeding with rye since turf already exists.

Skinned areas of sports fields may be watered as needed for dust control.

Since 2009 the City of Burleson has banned watering with irrigation or sprinkler systems, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., year round. This includes residential and non-residential customers.

The City of Burleson currently serves more than 33,000 residents with the population expected to grow to more than 65,000 by the year 2050. The City's water department currently purchases more than 1.7 billion gallons of treated water from the City of Fort Worth each year. That water is provided to Burleson residents through the City owned and maintained water distribution system. The water system's customer base is approximately 92 percent residential and the remaining 8 percent are multi-family and commercial/industrial customers. The Burleson water system employs nine tanks with a combined storage capability of 8.61 million gallons, and five pump stations with a combined pumping capacity of 17 million gallons per day to provide an average of nearly 5 million gallons of water per day to the nearly 12,500 connections.

For local information, go to the City website, www.burlesontx.com. You can also call the public works department at 817-426-9830, or stop by the Municipal Service Center, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, at 725 S.E. John Jones Dr.