

Mandatory Outdoor Water Usage Restrictions Issued for FCWSA Water Systems

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued a Drought Warning for Fauquier County based on the presence and severity of hydrologic drought

Mandatory restrictions are being put in place due to several factors, including continued high water usage during recent heat waves

Irrigation with a sprinkler or irrigation system prohibited. Conserve water use indoors.

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA, June 25, 2024: Due to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) issuance of a Drought Warning for Fauquier County and continued high outdoor water usage the Fauquier County Water and Sanitation Authority (FCWSA) is issuing mandatory outdoor water restrictions for all customers.

DEQ monitors and evaluates hydrologic and water supply conditions and evaluates drought conditions following guidance in the Virginia Drought Assessment and Response Plan. The Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force (DMTF) is responsible for making recommendations for Drought Stage declarations.

Yesterday, DEQ issued a Drought Warning for Fauquier County; [you can see DEQ's current drought status on their website here](#). A drought warning indicates a significant drought is imminent, and is the second stage of preparedness where local governments and public water works are advised to increase public awareness about the potential for drought in the near future, including the use of mandatory and voluntary water restrictions.

Precipitation deficits in combination with increased temperatures have resulted in rapid intensification of drought throughout the majority of the Commonwealth with substantial below-normal observations noted within the Northern Virginia and Shenandoah drought evaluation regions including Fauquier County. High outdoor water usage in FCWSA's service area is also putting pressure on water supplies.

As a result of DEQ's Drought Warning and the state of water usage in our service area, FCWSA and Fauquier County are immediately issuing mandatory outdoor water restrictions throughout the county and FCWSA's entire service area. To try and prevent impacts to service, including reduced pressure and fire protection, ALL FCWSA CUSTOMERS ARE UNDER THE FOLLOWING MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS:

- Irrigation with a sprinkler or irrigation system prohibited.

- Washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, or other mobile equipment prohibited, except in vehicle wash facilities operating with an effective and efficient water recycling system with a prominently displayed sign in public view so stating.
- Washing of streets, driveways, parking lots, service station aprons, the exterior of commercial or residential buildings, or any other outdoor surfaces prohibited, unless such washing is required to eliminate a safety or health hazard.
- Operation or use of all water-demanding amenities located within WSA's service area, such as ornamental fountains, waterfalls and reflecting ponds prohibited, unless such water use is necessary to aerate for a short period to preserve habitat for aquatic species.
- Refrain from filling any swimming and/or wading pool that is empty or is less than three-quarters full.

While FCWSA does not have any indication of a water leak or break adding to usage in the area, we are also asking customers to be watchful for any water usage-related events in their area. If a customer finds a water leak or break, they are asked to contact FCWSA at (540) 349-2092 during business hours or at (703) 740-5380 after business hours if they find something that could be wrong.

FCWSA would like to thank our customers in advance for their assistance during the FCWSA and the county's use of mandatory water restrictions. We will keep our customers updated on the situation on our website, future press releases, and if necessary, customer letters.

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