

Mandatory Water Restrictions Issued for New Baltimore Regional Water System

Mandatory restrictions are being put in place due to several factors, including record water usage on Labor Day

No outdoor water usage is allowed. Use water indoors only as necessary.

Mandatory restrictions are only in place for the New Baltimore system. Voluntary restrictions remain in effect for all other FCWSA customers.

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA, September 5, 2023: Due to record water usage in the New Baltimore Regional Water System during a drought watch advisory, the Fauquier County Water and Sanitation Authority (FCWSA) is issuing mandatory water restrictions for all customers in the New Baltimore service area. These restrictions are only for the New Baltimore system; all other FCWSA customers remain under voluntary water restrictions.

Last Wednesday, DEQ issued a drought watch advisory for Fauquier County. You can see the current drought status on the DEQ website www.deqvirginia.gov. A drought watch advisory is the first 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 voluntary water restrictions.

As a result of DEQ's declaration, FCWSA issued voluntarily water restrictions throughout its entire service area through the month of September.

Unfortunately, on Labor Day, the New Baltimore system saw usage increase dramatically and spike to 1.5 million gallons in a single day – a record amount and higher usage than the system – and the aquifers that supply it – can safely sustain.

To try and prevent impacts to service, including reduced pressure and fire protection, **ALL NEW BALTIMORE CUSTOMERS ARE UNDER THE FOLLOWING MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS:**

- No outdoor water usage is allowed. No irrigation system or other lawn or garden watering, no car washing, no power washing, no driveway washdowns, and no topping off of swimming pools.
- Use water only as necessary. Instead of baths, take showers. Make those showers short in length.

- Do not waste water. Turn it off when it is not directly in use, like while brushing teeth, washing hands, and washing dishes.
- Dishwashers and washing machines should only be used when loads are full.

THESE MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS ARE ONLY FOR THE NEW BALTIMORE REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM.

While FCWSA does not have any indication of a water leak or break adding to usage in the area, we are also asking New Baltimore customers to be watchful for any water usage-related events in their area. If a New Baltimore customer finds a water leak or break, they are asked to contact FCWSA at (540) 349-2092 during business hours or at (703) 551-6900 after business hours if they find something that could be wrong.

ALL OTHER FCWSA CUSTOMERS REMAIN UNDER VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS. They can help limit excessive water usage the following ways:

- Avoid hand-washing cars, vehicles, boats, or other outdoor equipment
- Make sure hoses and sprinklers are properly working without leaks
- Avoid pre-rinsing dishes and run dishwashers when they are full
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving
- Run full loads of laundry and/or adjust water settings to match the loads.
- Avoid watering lawns and gardens as much as possible. If necessary, only water twice a week during early morning or late-evening hours.

FCWSA would like to thank our customers in advance for their assistance during our use of mandatory and voluntary 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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