



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

STAGE THREE – DROUGHT WARNING

Birmingham Water Works to implement surcharges for excessive use

(BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – October 19, 2016) On October 19, 2016, drought management actions and requests will no longer be voluntary, but mandatory, as the Birmingham Water Works (BWW) moves to Stage Three – DROUGHT WARNING of its Drought Management Plan (DMP). Stage Three calls for surcharges for customers and entities that violate watering restrictions. Reaching this stage means that drought conditions have severely affected the reliability of the BWW's water resources and its ability to adequately meet the water demands of its customers. The system wide delivery of water went from 122.8 million gallons per day (MGD) on Friday Oct. 14th down to 112.5 MGD on Sunday Oct. 16th. The demand for water increased to 122.5 MGD on Tuesday, Oct. 17th. The normal water demand for the month of October is approximately 105 MGD.

Under Stage Three guidelines, residential customers will be allowed to use a maximum of 12 hundred cubic feet (ccf) or 8,977 gallons per month. Any customer that exceeds that amount will incur surcharges of 200 percent for any water used above the allowed amount (See attachment). The surcharge is a separate charge and is in addition to the normal charge. The average residential customer uses less than 10 ccf (7,500 gallons) of water per month. Non-residential (commercial) and raw water customers will incur surcharges of 200 percent for any water used above 110% of their monthly annual average billing. As per BWW guidelines, the surcharges will go into effect on November 19th, 30 days after the announcement of a Stage Three Drought Warning.

Darryl R. Jones, BWW Assistant General Manager of Operations and Technical Services, said, "This is the best alternative for us to maintain our water resources and make it through the remainder of the fall. Voluntary measures were not enough to deal with this level of drought. A severe lack of rain, low water level in Lake Purdy, and higher than

normal water consumption by customers are the primary drivers for initiating Stage Three.”

The entire Drought Management Plan can be reviewed on the web-site at <https://www.bwwb.org/droughttips> or by calling the Drought Hotline at 205-244-4440; however, key components of the plan are listed here for quick reference:

- The Birmingham Water Works will implement surcharges for excessive water use.
- Municipalities will be requested to adopt and implement their Drought Ordinance and enforce the watering rules within their communities.
- Under the BWW Stage Three “Drought Warning”, customers will be allowed to water established lawns and landscaping one day per week, using irrigation systems for no more than a total of one hour.
- Customers without irrigation systems will be allowed to hand water using a hose with a nozzle two days per week.
- New lawns and landscaping are exempt from the day of the week watering restrictions for the first 20 days after installation.
- The washing of personal vehicles shall be suspended unless conducted at a commercial car wash.
- Fire Hydrants. Unless exempted, the use of fire hydrants for any purpose except for firefighting or flushing sewers for health protection purposes shall be suspended.
- Golf courses that are supplied water by BWW are asked to restrict watering to tees and greens only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. This does not apply to golf courses with private water sources.
- Exemptions made for select commercial outdoor water users. (See Stage Three Drought Warning Exemptions in DMP)
- Athletic fields may be watered Wednesdays and Saturdays between 4 a.m. and 9 a.m. or when determined that said fields are hazardous to the health and safety of children and athletes, by being too hard by virtue of a lack of water.

Surcharges **DO NOT** apply to sewer rates. The BWW **DOES NOT** set sewer rates.

Founded in 1951, the Birmingham Water Works serves over 600,000 people in Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, St. Clair and Walker Counties. For more information about your Birmingham Water Works, please call us at (205) 244-4000 or visit our Web site at www.bwwb.org.



SURCHARGES EXPLAINED

Customer Class	Current Rate	Stage 3 Surcharge	Stage 4 Surcharge
Residential			
Block 1 (1-3) CCF	\$2.27	\$0.00	\$0.00
Block 2 (4-15) CCF	\$2.69	\$5.38	\$10.76
Block 3 (>15) CCF	\$4.01	\$8.02	\$16.04
Non-Residential	\$3.51	\$7.02	\$14.04
Raw Water	\$0.894	\$1.788	\$3.576

Note: Surcharges are in addition to the normal rates for water consumption. Surcharges will be applied to residential customers for usage above 12 CCF and for non-residential and raw water customers for consumption above 110% their annual average billing.



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Stage 3. Drought Warning

The Drought Warning Stage will be implemented when drought conditions are severely affecting the reliability of water resources and the ability of the Birmingham Water Works to adequately supply and meet future demands or usage requirements of its customers. **The Birmingham Water Works will implement surcharges for excessive water use.** The Birmingham Water Works has successfully utilized a water industry surcharge practice in the past for drought situations and will continue using this mechanism as a means for reducing excessive water use. The Birmingham Water Works will request that municipalities within its service area implement and enforce their Drought Management Ordinance. Customers will be required to use water conservation measures in order to mitigate the severe effects of the drought. The Drought Management Ordinance (detailed measures) is listed below.

Overview

Voluntary indoor conservation measures in Stage 1 – Drought Advisory and Stage 2 – Drought Watch plus:

- 1. The Birmingham Water Works Board will implement surcharges for excessive water use.**
2. Municipalities will be requested to adopt and implement their Drought Management Ordinance.
3. A press release will be sent to all media.
4. Customers will be allowed to water established lawns and landscaping one day per week using irrigation systems for no more than a total of one hour.
5. Customers without irrigation systems will be allowed to hand water using a hose with a nozzle two days per week.
6. No watering between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on each allowable watering day.
7. No watering on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.
8. New lawns and landscaping exempt from day of the week watering for the first 20 days after installation.
9. The washing of personal vehicles shall be suspended unless conducted at a commercial car wash.
10. Unless exempted, fire hydrant use will be restricted to fire fighting or flushing sewers for health protection.
11. Golf courses shall only water greens and tees. *Guidelines only apply to golf courses that use BWW water for irrigation purposes.*

Detailed Measures

1. Outdoor Watering for Established Lawns and Landscaping

- Addresses ending in an even number shall use irrigation systems for no more than a total of one hour on Mondays. Those without irrigation systems shall hand water established lawns and landscaping using a hose with a nozzle on Mondays and Thursdays.



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- Addresses ending in an odd number shall use irrigation systems for no more than a total of one hour on Fridays. Those without irrigation systems shall hand water established lawns and landscaping using a hose with a nozzle on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- The use of irrigation systems or hand watering of established lawns and landscaping shall not be conducted between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on each allowable watering day.
- No watering shall be conducted on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.
- Commercial accounts receiving multiple bills with different addresses shall follow the even-day watering schedule and only use irrigation systems for no more than a total of one hour on Mondays. Those without irrigation systems shall hand water established lawns and landscaping using a hose with a nozzle on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Unnumbered addresses shall follow the odd-day watering schedule and only use irrigation systems for no more than a total of one hour on Fridays. Those without irrigation systems shall hand water established lawns and landscaping using a hose with a nozzle on Tuesdays and Fridays.

2. Outdoor Watering for New Lawns and Landscaping

- New lawns and landscaping are exempt from the day of the week restrictions for the first 20 days after installation; however, such irrigation or hand watering shall be limited to the minimum necessary and shall not be conducted between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- After 20 days, irrigation systems are allowed for no more than a total of one hour. Customers without irrigation systems shall hand water using a hose with nozzle two days per week. (As discussed in Number 1).
 - Addresses ending in an even number shall use irrigation systems for no more than a total of one hour on Mondays. Those without irrigation systems shall hand water established lawns and landscaping using a hose with a nozzle on Mondays and Thursdays.
 - Addresses ending in an odd number shall use irrigation systems for no more than a total of one hour on Fridays. Those without irrigation systems shall hand water established lawns and landscaping using a hose with a nozzle on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Documentation to verify the date of planting shall be made available upon request.

3. Insecticides, Fungicides and Herbicides

- Irrigation or hand-watering for the purpose of watering in insecticides, fungicides and herbicides where such watering is required by the manufacturer or by federal, state or local law shall be coordinated with the schedule above for established lawns and landscaping, and no watering is to be conducted between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

4. Vehicle Washing

- Vehicle washing by persons other than commercial car washes or those businesses listed as exempt or conditional is prohibited at all times.
- Commercial car washes and limousine services are permitted to operate under normal conditions.



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- Auto dealers shall limit vehicle washing to only purchased vehicles.
- Body shops and car rental agencies shall limit vehicle washing to those vehicles that are delivered to customers.
- Corporations and government agencies with fleet vehicles shall limit vehicle washing to the minimum amount necessary but not to exceed more than once per week.

5. **Golf Courses** - *Guidelines only apply to golf courses that use BWW water for irrigation purposes.*

- The watering of any portion of golf courses except for tees and greens shall be suspended.
- The watering of tees and greens is allowed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.
- Hand syringing is permitted for no more than 5 minutes per green on other days of the week when ambient temperature is equal to or greater than 94 degrees.

6. **Swimming Pools and Jacuzzis**

- Newly constructed or existing public and private swimming pools, which include outdoor hot tubs, spas and Jacuzzis, may be filled once upon completion.
- A one-time draining and subsequent refilling of swimming pools is allowed only for repairs if conditions threaten the integrity of the pool and/or its supporting infrastructure.

7. **Fire Hydrants**

- Unless exempted, the use of fire hydrants for any purpose except for fire fighting or flushing sewers for health protection purposes shall be suspended.

8. **Athletic Fields**

- Athletic fields may be watered Wednesdays and Saturdays between 4 a.m. and 9 a.m. when determined that said fields are hazardous to the health and safety of children and athletes, by being too hard by virtue of a lack of water.

9. **Other Water Uses**

- Restaurants requested to serve water only at the request of their customers.
- Hotels and motels requested to ask customers to reuse towels and sheets when possible.
- Car wash fundraisers are prohibited.

10. **Exemptions**

The following commercial outdoor water users are exempt from day of the week watering restrictions. However, all groups shall restrict water use to the minimum amount necessary. All groups are subject to surcharges.

- Sod producers.
- Ornamental growers.
- Fruit and vegetable growers.
- Retail garden centers/Commercial nurseries.
- Hydro-seeding.



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- Power-washing.
- Construction sites.
- Producers of food and fiber.
- Commercial car washes.
- Watering-in of pesticides and herbicides on turf.

Special Note:

The City Mayor or County Health Officer shall have the authority to permit reasonable use of water to maintain public health, safety and sanitary standards. However, reasonable use shall not take precedence over the restrictions in this section.

Triggers

- a. Palmer Drought Severity Index, ranges from -3.0 to -3.9
- b. Reservoir Elevation Level, ranges from 13 to 10 percentile
- c. Stream flow, ranges from 10 to 6 percentile flows
- d. System Delivery, ranges from 81 to 85 percent capacity