

**BOROUGH OF SEVEN FIELDS  
ORDINANCE NUMBER 88**

**DROUGHT EMERGENCY PLAN**

**Purpose:**

This Drought Emergency Plan is intended to establish measures for essential conservation of water resources, and to provide for equitable distribution of limited water supplies, in order to balance demand and limited available supplies to assure that sufficient water is available to preserve public health and safety within the Borough's service area.

**Objective:**

It is imperative that consumers within the Boroughs service area achieve an immediate and further reduction in their water use in order to extend existing water supplies and, at the same time, assure that sufficient water is available to preserve the public health and sanitation, and provide fire protection service.

The objective of this Four Phase Drought Emergency Plan is to effect an immediate reduction in water usage. The amount of reduction will be determined by staff upon review of drought conditions and remaining available supply.

**PHASE I — Early Warning Period:**

The first phase shall consist of:

- A. Making our customers aware of an impending drought situation. The Borough shall use all available news media to continually remind customers that Phase II is approaching.
- B. In as much as the Borough shall be both a motivating and catalytic force in the catalytic force in the drought contingency plan, certain internal procedures must be adopted. In affect, prior to imposing either voluntary or mandatory curtailments upon industry, it is incumbent upon the Borough to essentially get our own house in order. This can be accomplished, at least in part, by initiating the following procedures:

## **Phase I — Early Warning Period: (Continued)**

1. Maintaining a high profile in the public eye by initiating intensified leak detection programs that will take priority over routine matters such as maintenance and/or the installation of new services. This program shall include media news releases and a request for citizens to report obvious or suspected leak situations. This program to commence initially in the older part of the system and proceed to those areas most recently installed. Areas of concern shall be sounding of hydrants to determine possible main and/or service leaks and inspection of gate valves to determine packing leaks. The leak correlator will be used on a priority basis.
2. Immediately curtail all flushing programs.
3. Shutdown all operating blow-offs.
4. Shutdown all ornamental fountains. Even though these units recycle water, there is a certain psychological effect which can be attached to their operation.
5. Reduce all air conditioning and eliminate where possible.
6. Where practical, eliminate all plant dehumidification or operate intermittently.
7. Check all finished water pumps Borough-wide to reduce packing gland leakage.
8. Review backwash procedure to maximize efficiency. Backwashes shall be initiated as a result of high loss of head or as indicated by the membrane filter straining test technique.
9. Surface washing to be reduced.
10. Sludge blow-down efficiency to be evaluated and reduced to the most practical level.
11. All steps contained within the voluntary procedures of this manual, as they relate to both residential and nonresidential consumers, shall be implemented immediately.

## **PHASE II — Voluntary Conservation by Consumers:**

Under Phase II, the Borough's customers are asked to exercise voluntary reduction of water usage. To achieve this voluntary reduction, the Borough requests that all customers eliminate the unnecessary use of water as defined in the following elements.

Commercial and industrial customers are requested to reduce water usage as far as possible without affecting their employment level. Industries are asked to prepare contingency plans for actions to be taken in the eventuality that continued severe drought conditions require further reductions in water use. Such contingency plans should prepare for potential eventual reduction of up to twenty-five percent (25%) of pre-emergency water use levels. Efforts will be made to work with the industries to identify water use reduction techniques which will not affect employment level.

These elements are declared to be nonessential uses of water and are to be eliminated by all customers of the Borough:

1. The use of water for irrigation and watering of lawns, gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs, or other plants, except by hand-held hose or container;
2. The use of water for washing paved surfaces, such as sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, and patios;
3. The use of water for watering any portion of golf courses, except for tees and greens;
4. The use of water for ornamental purposes, including fountains, artificial waterfalls, and reflecting pools;
5. The use of water for noncommercial washing or cleaning of automobiles, other motor vehicles, trailers, and boats;
6. The use of water for refilling swimming pools and ice-skating rinks after draining;
7. The use of water for refilling air conditioning cooling towers after draining;
8. The serving of water in restaurants, clubs, or eating places, unless specifically requested by a customer;

## **PHASE II — Voluntary Conservation by Consumers: (Continued)**

10. The use of water for flushing or washing streets, roads, driveways, sidewalks, and garages.
11. The use of fire hydrants for any purpose other than fire fighting. This prohibition includes drills or practices by fire departments where water must be used.

## **PHASE III — Mandatory Conservation by Consumers:**

Under Phase III, customers are required to reduce water usage. To achieve this reduction, the Borough prohibits the unnecessary use of water as defined in the following elements. Government institutions will also comply with these elements.

The Borough will enforce this mandatory conservation program through the imposition of fines and possible shut-off for noncompliance.

These elements are declared to be unnecessary uses of water that are prohibited for all customers:

1. The use of water for irrigation and watering of lawns, gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs, or other plants, except by hand-held hose or container;
2. The use of water for washing paved surfaces, such as sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, and patios;
3. The use of water for watering any portion of golf courses, except for tees and greens;
4. The use of water for ornamental purposes, including fountains, artificial waterfalls, and reflecting pools;
5. The use of water for noncommercial washing or cleaning of automobiles, other motor vehicles, trailers, and boats;
6. The use of water for refilling swimming pools and ice-skating rinks after draining;
7. The use of water for refilling air conditioning cooling towers after draining;
8. The serving of water in restaurants, clubs, or eating places, unless specifically requested by a customer;

### **PHASE III — Mandatory Conservation by Consumers: (Continued)**

9. The use of water to establish or construct new landscape installations;
10. The use of water for flushing sewers, except as deemed necessary in the interest of public health and safety;
11. The use of water for flushing or washing streets, roads, driveways, sidewalks, and garages;
12. The use of fire hydrants for any purpose other than fire fighting. This prohibition includes drills or practices by fire departments where water must be used;
13. Use of gadgets and toys, including "Slip and Slide" and "Wet Banana";
14. Curtailment of all water used by fire training academics including stored water.

### **PHASE IV — Water Rationing:**

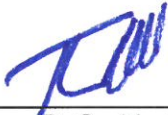
- A. Determine amount of cutback required.
- B. Public notification via radio, TV, and newspaper.
- C. Provision of appeal mechanism by customers to Borough established Review Board.
- D. Monitor effectiveness of cutback:
  1. Review data on large use customers where meter is read monthly.
  2. Random check on meters of domestic customers.
- E. if not effective, determine where problem areas exist.
- F. Determine non-complaint customers:
  1. Roving patrols
  2. Police surveillance

**PHASE IV — Water Rationing: (Continued)**


G. Corrective Action:

1. Written warning
2. Installation of flow restriction device in service line
3. Shut off
4. Fines as determined by local magistrate or PA DEP

Local water rationing plans will correspond to State Emergency Management Authority Plan.



Thomas B. Smith, Borough Manager



Jennifer G. Sikora, President of Council

Approved this 11 day of April 2016.

  
Victor Giannotta, Mayor