

Overview of Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Drought Response Levels

The State of Georgia may declare non-drought conditions and drought response Level 1, 2 or 3, with Level 1 being the least severe and Level 3 being the most severe drought response level. The following will apply as drought levels are declared:

1.) Drought Response Level 1.

(a) The Installation must implement a public information campaign that will include, at a minimum, public notice regarding drought conditions and drought specific public-service messages in one or more of the following ways: newspaper advertisements, website homepage, social media, and notices in public libraries.

2.) Drought Response Level 2. During Drought Response Level 2, The Installation will implement all Drought Response Level 1 measures plus the following additional Drought Response Level 2 measures:

(a), General Outdoor Watering. Outdoor irrigation for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants will be limited to two days a week on an odd-even schedule. Even numbered addresses may irrigate on Wednesday and Saturday between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Odd numbered addresses may irrigate on Thursday and Sunday between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. "Even numbered address" means an address number ending with the number 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, or the site does not have a numbered address. "Odd numbered address" means an address ending with the number 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9

(b) Specific Categories of Outdoor Water Use. The following outdoor water uses shall not be allowed, except as provided below:

- 1.) Washing hard surfaces such as streets, gutters, sidewalks and driveways, except when necessary for public health and safety;
- 2.) Using water for ornamental purposes, such as fountains, reflecting pools, and waterfalls;
- 3.) Use of fire hydrants, except for the purposes of firefighting, public health, safety, or flushing;
- 4.) Washing vehicles, such as cars, boats, trailers, motorbikes, airplanes, or golf carts;
- 5.) Non-commercial washing, or pressure washing, of buildings or structures, except for immediate fire protection; and
- 6.) Charity, or non-commercial fund-raiser, car washes.

3.) Drought Response Level 3. During Drought Response Level 3, The Installation will implement all Drought Response Level 1 and 2 measures plus the following additional Drought Response Level 3 measures:

(a), General Outdoor Watering. Outdoor irrigation for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants, as described in Rule 391-3-30-.03, is not permitted.

(b), Specific Categories of Outdoor Water Use. The outdoor water uses will be allowed, subject to the following additional requirements:

- 1.) Irrigation of personal food gardens shall be conducted between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., unless done using drip irrigation or soaker hoses. Irrigation of personal food gardens using drip irrigation or soaker hoses may be done at any time;
 - 2.) Hand watering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container may be conducted between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.;
 - 3.) Irrigation of athletic fields or public turf grass recreational areas may be conducted between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., subject to the two days a week odd-even schedule described in Drought Response Level 2;
 - 4.) Irrigation of golf courses shall be conducted in accordance with the "Golf Irrigation Prediction and Estimation Worksheet" and only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., provided, however, irrigation of golf course greens may occur at any time of day;
 - 5.) There are some exceptions for reclaimed water is usage, please consult with Fort Stewart's Environmental Office for Guidance.
 - 6.) Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems is allowed, provided that it is done by professional landscapers or golf course superintendents.
 - 7.) Drought Response Strategies Menu.
 - a. Public information campaign that goes significantly beyond the minimum notice and public service messages associated with Drought Response Level 1;
 - b. Glasses of water provided to restaurant customers only upon request;
 - c. Distribute retrofit kits and water saving devices to customers. These kits and devices may include, but not be limited to, shower heads, leak dye tabs, toilet tank displacement devices, and hose shut off nozzles;
 - d. Technical assistance outreach program to target high users to identify and/or recommend opportunities to reduce water usage;
 - e. Reduce system pressure, unless such reduction would create unsafe water supply conditions;
 - f. Pool cover requirements;
 - g. Implement a drought surcharge program, or tiered conservation rates, that satisfy the criteria of this rule;
 - h. Suspension of street cleaning program(s);
 - i. Implement, or accelerate, leak detection and repair program(s);
 - j. Impose monetary penalties or terminate water services to customers to reduce outdoor water waste due to excessive application, outdoor leaks, improper irrigation, or other similar reasons.
- 4.) **Professional Exemptions.** The following commercial outdoor water uses are exempt from the Outdoor Water Use restrictions of this rule:
- a. Pressure washing;
 - b. Permanent car wash facility, provided that it is connected to a sanitary sewer system of a political subdivision or local government authority or recycles used wash water;

- c. Construction sites
- d. Watering-in of pesticides and herbicides on turf; and Other activities essential to daily business