



**Public Works Department**

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## **Water Curtailment FAQ for Alert Stage 1 – Water Alert**

When drought and water use conditions require the City to begin water curtailment, the City Council will activate the water curtailment by Resolution in accordance with Molalla Municipal Code (MMC) 13.04.055. Below are a few frequently asked questions (FAQ).

### **FAQ 1 – What are the action measures during Alert Stage 1 and what do they mean?**

Action Measure 1 – Public Works will post a water status sign in front of City Hall that will indicate the City is in Water Alert Stage No. 1. The sign will be posted on an A-frame or the alert will be posted on a reader board in front of City Hall.

Action Measure 2 – Public Works will ask for voluntary reduction in all water use or mandates for watering through the City's website and other forms of social media the City uses.

Action Measure 3 – The City will prohibit outside watering between 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Watering from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. is allowed following Action Measure 4 requirements and we ask that you don't water unless it is absolutely needed.

Action Measure 4 – Outside watering for even addresses on even numbered days & odd addresses on odd numbered days. If your street address ends in a "2" then you are an even numbered address and can water on even numbered days, such as August 2<sup>nd</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup>, etc.

Action Measure 5 – Water wasted down gutters or streets & wash down of paved surfaces, streets, & structures is prohibited. Paved surfaces should be broom cleaned. Gutters should be hand cleaned to remove large debris and let the fall rains do the rest of the work.

Action Measure 6 – Water use for wash down of paved surfaces & structures only for health & safety purposes. Consider what a real health and safety issue is before wash down. Is there a slip and fall issue, biological hazard such as blood on the ground, or can a spill be taken care of with a commercial absorbent or simple cat litter and swept up.

Action Measure 7 – The City will continue to provide public outreach promoting conservation using the tools it has available and you can always contact Public Works at 503.829.6855 if you need additional information not provided in the public outreach information.

Action Measure 8 – Bulk water meters are used to fill water trucks for construction to limit dust (required by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality) and wet rock down prior to compaction. Properly compacted rock stops settling of trenches and damage to roadways. The City will cease issuance of new bulk water meters for construction, but existing bulk water meters being used for active construction sites will continue until completion of construction or the City moves to Alert Stage 2.

Action Measure 9 – New connection to a the water system through a water meter (water hook-ups) will be prohibited for all new applications. Existing applications will be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Public Works Director.

Action Measure 10 – The use of water for fire drills or washing of Fire Department trucks is prohibited. The Molalla Fire District will only wash the ambulance for health and safety reasons and will not wash down fire trucks unless there is an obvious health and safety issue. Public Works and other City vehicles not utilizing a drive through car wash will also be adhering to this rule.

## **FAQ 2 – What can I do to help conserve water before a drought happens and during a drought?**

### Conserving Water Indoors

- Turn off faucets when they are not in direct use.
- Don't let the water run while you are brushing your teeth, cleaning dishes, or washing your hands.
- Take shorter showers.
- Identify and repair dripping or leaking faucets and pipes.
- Run only full loads in the dish or clothes washer.
- When replacing appliances, consider the water usage listed on replacement appliances when making your purchase.

### Conserving Water Outdoors

- Water your lawn only 1 inch a week, except when it is unusually hot. Note: A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on the grass. If it springs up it does not need water. If it stays flat, it's thirsty.
- Deep soak your lawn. Deep soaking allows the moisture to soak down to the roots.
- Use drip systems for landscaping to prevent evaporation and provide deeper soakage.
- Water early in the morning when it is coolest to avoid evaporation.
- Don't water the pavement or other non-essential areas.
- Use rain collection barrels to collect run-off water from your roof for reuse in gardening and landscaping. These are available in many home improvement retail stores.
- Consider landscaping options that require less or no water.

### **FAQ 3 – Will things get worse and move into higher alert levels?**

There are three things that dictate water alert levels. Environmental conditions (drought and lowering river levels), water treatment plant or system equipment failures, and end users use of water. We cannot control environmental conditions and the Public Works department actively performs maintenance and replacement of aging equipment to avoid an unexpected equipment failure. The one thing we can control as a community is our use of water. If the community, as a whole, conserves and reduces its water use and environmental/equipment conditions remain stable, then there is a high probability that we will not have to move to more stringent alert levels.

For further information regarding water curtailment please visit the City's website at [www.cityofmolalla.com](http://www.cityofmolalla.com).