

CHAPTER 93

WATER EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM

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93.01 PROCEDURE. In the event it appears that a water emergency may be occurring in the City of Spirit Lake, the Superintendent of Water shall contact the Public Works Director and City Administrator to discuss the potential emergency. If the City Administrator concurs that an emergency exists, the Public Works Director and the Superintendent of Water shall be authorized to implement those Water Emergency Response elements determined necessary to address the Water Emergency.

93.02 NOTIFICATION. The City Administrator shall see that the appropriate public officials are notified and that the City staff notifies the water users impacted by the emergency of their need to participate in the Water Emergency Response elements.

93.03 EMERGENCY CONSERVATION LEVELS. The level of appropriate response to a Water Emergency will depend upon conditions of usage and availability of supply. Three levels are established beginning with voluntary measures up to mandatory restrictions on water usage. The levels of response regarding a Water Emergency event are as follows:

1. Water Advisory
2. Water Warning
3. Water Emergency

The City Superintendent of Water shall determine the level in consultation with the Public Works Director and the Administrator and shall direct public notification efforts.

93.04 CONDITIONS. The following conditions are defined for determining if a Water Emergency exists and the level of response by the City. The availability of water supply will be assessed and used as contributing information in determining the level of water emergency. The levels of emergency are as follows:

1. Phase I – Water Advisory. A Water Advisory may be declared when a water shortage or equipment failure poses a potential threat to the

ability of the water system to meet the needs of its customers currently or in the foreseeable future. Indicators of the need to impose a Water Advisory include: system operation at 75% of pumping capacity; moderate decrease in the pumping water level of the water tower, or other potential moderate threats to the reliable availability of water supply.

2. Phase 2 – Water Warning. A Water Warning may be declared when a water shortage or equipment failure poses a serious threat to the ability of the water system to meet the needs of its customers currently or in the foreseeable future. Indicators of the need to impose a Phase 2 Water Warning include: system operating at 85% of pumping capacity; significant decrease in the pumping water level of tower or significant decrease in recovery rate of water level in clear wells; significant decrease in lake levels measured in number of feet below spillway to number of feet above intake; severe system emergencies such as a chemical spill or major system failure.

3. Phase 3 – Water Emergency. A Water Emergency may be declared when a water shortage or equipment failure poses a severe and immediate threat to the ability of the water system to meet the needs of its customers. Indicators of the need to impose a water emergency include: system operating at 95% of pumping capacity; serious decrease in the pumping water level of tower or serious decrease in recovery rate of water level in tower; serious decrease in lake levels measured in number of feet below spillway to number of feet above intake.

93.05 RESPONSE. Upon determination of the level of Water Emergency, the City will respond with the actions described in this section. Each phase may encompass elements of the preceding phase. City staff will contact large water consumers first, and then implement other elements as the need arises.

1. Phase 1 – Water Advisory. Under a Water Advisory, all customers of the water utility are encouraged to limit or curtail all nonessential uses of water in order to conserve water resources during the time of shortage or equipment failure. Customers may be encouraged to comply with the following voluntary standards:

A. No watering of lawns, shrubs or gardens between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

B. No water should be used to fill private swimming pools, children's wading pools, reflecting pools, or any other outdoor pool or pond.

- C. No water should be used to wash streets, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks or building exteriors.
 - D. No water should be used for nonessential cleaning of commercial and industrial equipment, machinery and interior spaces.
 - E. Water should be served at restaurants only upon the request of the customer.
 - F. Water restrictions allowed for odd-even sprinkling by customers.
2. Phase 2 – Water Warning. Under a Water Warning, the City may impose mandatory restrictions on the usage of water. Restrictions may be enforced through an order that may include any or all of the listed prohibitions on the use of potable processed water of the municipal water service:
- A. Outdoor watering or irrigation of lawns is prohibited.
 - B. Outdoor watering of any kind is prohibited between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. daily.
 - C. Water or irrigation of flower and vegetable gardens, trees and shrubs less than four years old and new seeding or sod is permitted once per week with an application not to exceed one inch.
 - D. Car washing is prohibited except in commercial establishments that provide that service.
 - E. No water shall be used to fill private swimming pools, children’s wading pools, reflecting pools or any other outdoor pool or pond.
 - F. No water shall be used to wash streets, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks or building exteriors.
 - G. No water shall be used for nonessential cleaning of commercial and industrial equipment, machinery and interior spaces.
 - H. Water shall be served at restaurants only upon the request of the customer.
 - I. Use of water-consuming comfort air conditioning equipment which consumes in excess of 5 percent of the water circulating in such equipment is prohibited.

- J. Tank load water sales may be curtailed or prohibited.
- K. No car washing at home.
- L. No washing of sidewalks.
- M. Reduce water on City parks non-play areas.
- N. Odd/even lawn watering during the night.
- O. No park or playing field watering.
- P. No watering of commercial or industrial landscape areas.
- Q. Other irrigation restrictions as deemed necessary.
- R. No City street washing, unless legally required.
- S. Request to large water users to reduce water use by 10%.

Water reclaimed or recycled after some primary use, such as water that has been used for washing or cooling, may be used without restriction. Additionally, water derived from other sources than the City water utility, such as water condensed from the atmosphere by air conditioners or collected from rain or snow, may be used without restriction.

3. Phase 3 – Water Emergency. Under a Water Emergency, the most stringent restrictions may be imposed. No person shall use potable processed water of the municipal water system in any manner contrary to the following:

- A. All outside water use, except for domestic, sanitation and fire, is prohibited.
- B. All commercial and industrial use of water not essential in providing products or services is prohibited.
- C. Irrigation of agricultural crops is prohibited.
- D. Recreational and leisure water use, including lawn and golf course watering and other incidental or recreational use, is prohibited.
- E. Water use not necessary for the preservation of life or the general welfare of the community is prohibited.

93.06 NOTIFICATION. The City Superintendent of Water and other City employees will provide notice to the public when any phase of the water emergency response is made effective. Local radio and newspaper outlets will be notified and other forms of public communication will be utilized to the extent possible. All City employees will be instructed to provide information to the public in the course of regular City Business.

93.07 VIOLATIONS. Each occurrence of a violation is considered a separate infraction. In the event that a violation is recurring and threatens the availability of water for public safety and health, the violator is subject to immediate disconnection from the water system.

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