

# Drought Emergency Contingency

The purpose of this document is to address the City of Auburn short-term water shortage problems with a series of stages based on conditions of supply, previous rainfall amounts, river flows and demand with the accompanying triggers, goals and actions. Each stage is more stringent in water use than the previous stage since water supply conditions have further deteriorated.

## STAGE 1: WATER WATCH

### Triggers

This stage is triggered **by any one** of the following conditions:

- The capacity of City's stored water is below 85% of total capacity.

- Groundwater levels have fallen five feet below the normal seasonal level.

- Water demand for one day is in excess of total pumping capacity for one day.

- Recorded precipitation for last 12 months is 50% below average.

### Goals

The goals of this stage are to heighten the awareness of the public on water conditions and to maintain the integrity of the water supply system.

### Education Actions

- The BPW will make occasional news releases to the local media describing present conditions and indicating the water supply outlook for the upcoming season.

- The previous month's summaries of precipitation, temperature, water levels and storage will be made public at the beginning of each month.

### Management Actions

- The City's wells will be cleaned and flushed to maintain them at their most efficient condition.

- Distribution main leaks will be repaired within 48 hours of detection.

- For customer service lines that are leaking, the customer will be notified to have them repaired within 24 hours to avoid water shut off until repairs are made.

- The City will monitor its use of water and will curtail activities such as hydrant flushing and street cleaning.

### Public Actions

- The public will be asked to curtail some outdoor water use and to make efficient use of indoor water, i.e. wash full loads, take short showers, don't let faucets run, fix leaky toilets, etc.

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## STAGE 2: WATER WARNING

### Triggers

This stage is triggered **by any one** of the following conditions:

The capacity of the City's stored water is below 70% of total capacity.

Groundwater levels have fallen ten feet below the normal seasonal level.

Water usage is exceeding 80% of our total pumping capacity of the system wells for more than three consecutive days.

Recorded precipitation for last 12 months is 70% below average.

Nemaha River level is 10% below average flows for the last quarter.

### Goals

The goals of this stage are to reduce peak demands by 20% and to reduce overall weekly consumption by 10%.

### Education Actions

The BPW will make weekly news releases to the local media describing present conditions and indicating the water supply outlook for the upcoming week.

The previous week's summaries of precipitation, temperature, water levels and storage will be made public each Thursday.

Water conservation articles will be provided to the local newspaper.

### Management Actions

The City water supplies will be monitored daily.

Leaks will be repaired within 24 hours of detection.

Pumping at wells will be reduced to decrease drawdown and to maintain water levels over well screens.

Customer Service lines that are leaking will be shut off until repairs are made.

The City will curtail its water usage, including operation of fountains, watering of City grounds, and washing of vehicles.

### Mandatory Public Actions

An odd/even lawn watering system will be imposed on BPW water customers.

Residents with odd- numbered addresses will be asked to water on odd days; residents with even addresses will be asked to water on even days.

Outdoor water use, including lawn watering and car washing will be restricted to before 10:00 am and after 9:00 pm.

Refilling of swimming pools will be allowed one day a week after sunset.

Excess water use charges for usage of water over the amount used in the winter will be imposed.

Wells used for irrigation within the City Well Head Protection Area will have their usage monitored.

Waste of water will be prohibited.

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## STAGE 3: WATER EMERGENCY

### Triggers

This stage is triggered **by any one** of the following conditions:

- The City storage has fallen below 50% of total capacity.

- Groundwater levels have fallen, fifteen feet below the normal seasonal level.

- Pumping lowers water levels to within five feet of the top of the well screens.

- Water usage is exceeding 90% of our total pumping capacity of the system wells for more than three consecutive days.

- Recorded precipitation for last 12 months is 80% below average.

- Nemaha River level is 30% below average flows for the last quarter.

### Goals

The goals of this stage are to reduce peak demands by 50% and to reduce overall weekly consumption by 25%.

### Education Actions

- The BPW will make daily news releases to the local media describing present conditions and indicating the water supply outlook for the next day.

- The previous day's summaries of precipitation, temperature, water levels and storage will be made available to the public each day.

- The BPW will hold public meetings to discuss the emergency, the status of the City's water supply, and further actions which need to be taken.

### Management Actions

- The City's water supplies will be monitored daily.

- Leaks will be repaired within 24 hours of detection.

- Customer Service lines that are leaking will be shut off until repairs are made.

- Standby wells will be activated for contingency operation.

- Pumping at wells will be reduced to decrease drawdown and to maintain water levels over well screens.

- Water users that can utilize Non-Potable water will use other water sources.

- The City will cease the operation of fountains, watering of City grounds, and washing of vehicles.

- The City will seek additional emergency supplies from other users, the state or the federal government.

- Wells used for irrigation within the City's Well Head Protection Area will cease operations.

### Mandatory Public Actions

- Outdoor water use will be banned.

- Car washes will be shutdown.

- All lawn/irrigation water will be banned.

- Waste of water will be prohibited.

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## **ALTERNATE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER**

In the event the City of Auburn would need an alternate source of drinking water the following options are available to the City:

### **Short Term Sources of Drinking Water**

The City of Auburn has made arrangements with suppliers of bottled water and bottling companies to supply bottled water to residents of the city, in case of temporary loss of the water supply. These suppliers would also be used to supply families with babies, pregnant women, the elderly and people with poor health in the event that a NHHS issues an Administrative Order.

### **Long Term Sources of Drinking Water**

In the event the City of Auburn would require an alternate source of water for an extended period, the City is currently negotiating with nearby communities to have water hauled from them by truck to Auburn.