

# WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY

Has Been Declared in the  
Inverness Public Utility District

## WATER USAGE RESTRICTIONS ARE NOW IN EFFECT

This is an Official Notice that a Declaration of a Water Shortage Emergency was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Inverness Public Utility District on the morning of July 22, 2020.

Stage 1 mandatory water conservation measures became effective at 12 noon on July 22.

**IPUD Water System customers are requested to immediately cut back on water usage:**

Households using an outdoor watering system:  
**Reduce water usage by**  
**25% - 30%**

Households not using an outdoor watering system:  
**Reduce water usage by**  
**10% - 15%**

Businesses and other non-residential customers:  
**Reduce water usage by**  
**15% - 20%**

Keep up to date with the status of the water shortage and with new **mandatory** water usage restrictions that may come into effect:

**Visit the District's website at: [invernesspud.org](http://invernesspud.org)**

### WHY ARE WE IN THIS SITUATION?

- The short answer is: **Our watershed is drying out faster this summer than we've ever seen before!** Streamflows in mid-July already look like what we typically expect in the late fall (after we've gotten past the peak summer demand).
- Precipitation during this past rainfall year was only 61% of the 89-year average for Inverness. The total was 23.1 inches, while the average is 37.7 inches, making 2019/20 the driest year in the 40 years since IPUD acquired the water system in 1980 -- and the driest since the historic two-year drought of 1975-77.
- Of the total of 23.1 inches recorded from July 2019 through June 2020, only 6 inches fell after January 2020, which is less than 40% of the normal of 15.5 inches for this critical period of the year. Moreover, there has been no appreciable rainfall at all since the middle of May.
- This year's spring was notable for the absence of the usual morning fog and overcast conditions that keep the watershed moist and the streams flowing. And, the early part of the summer has been characterized by abnormally strong, dry winds and that have further desiccated the watershed (and increased customer demand for water for gardens).
- We are legally obligated to conserve the water supply for the greatest public benefit, particularly for human use, sanitation, and fire protection. We also have a moral obligation to not take so much water that the streams dry up!
- **If the Stage 1 restrictions do not prove to be adequate, Stage 2 will restrict outdoor watering, Stage 3 will prohibit all outdoor watering, and Stage 4 will introduce water rationing.**

**See other side for details of the Stage 1 mandatory water usage restrictions.**

## Under the current Stage 1, the following restrictions are legally enforceable\*

- a. Any use of water in conjunction with installation of landscaping at any site of new or substantial remodeling construction, except as necessary for erosion control and dust control.
- b. Use of water through any service when the customer or the owner of the premises is aware of, or should have cause to be aware of, any broken or defective plumbing, sprinkler, watering or irrigation system, and the customer or owner has failed to effect necessary repairs within ten (10) days.
- c. Use of water which results in flooding or runoff into a gutter, street, roadway, or elsewhere of similar nature.
- d. Use of water through a hose not equipped with a positive shutoff mechanism for washing cars, busses, boats, trailers, or any other types of vehicles.
- e. Use of water through a hose for washing the exteriors of buildings or structures, or for washing sidewalks, driveways, patios, parking lots, athletic or game courts (such as tennis courts), or other hard-surfaced outdoor areas.
- f. Use of water for filling any new swimming pool or for refilling any existing swimming pool, except for reasonable "topping off" or reasonable backwashing-to-waste of existing swimming pools at intervals of not less than fourteen (14) days.
- g. Use of water to clean, fill, or maintain levels in decorative fountains, pools, or ponds exceeding one hundred (100) gallons capacity, except as minimally necessary to maintain existing piscine life.
- h. Use of water for construction purposes, such as consolidating backfill, unless no other source of water or method is reasonably available to be used, and a permit for said use has been issued by the General Manager of the Inverness Public Utility District.
- i. Service of water to a customer by any restaurant or food-service establishment except when requested by the customer.
- j. Use of water without a permit issued by the General Manager to fill any privately-owned water storage tank exceeding one hundred (100) gallons capacity unless said tank is directly online in and an integral part of the customer's water service connection.

### ***In addition...***

- Wasteful or nonbeneficial use of water is prohibited.
- Customers are expected to reduce water usage whenever possible by at least the amount currently being requested, including percentage reductions.
- Customers should regularly consult the District's website, [invernesspud.org](http://invernesspud.org), for updates and new restrictions that may be placed in effect.
- Signs about the status of the water shortage and the restrictions currently in effect are posted inside and around the lobby at the Inverness Post Office, as well as on the District's information kiosks (at the Firehouse on Inverness Way North and at the Seahaven Tank Site at 221 Via de la Vista in Seahaven).
- Meters for new service connections applied for while the Water Shortage Emergency is in effect will not be installed until the Water Shortage Emergency has been declared ended.

### **Examples of water usage**

**Shower: 5 gallons/minute**

**Bath (full tub): 36 gallons on average**

**Teeth brushing: 1 gallon/minute**

**Dishwasher: 6-16 gallons**

**Dish washing by hand: 8-27 gallons**

**Toilet flush (low-flow): 1.6 gallons**

**Washing machine (new): 25 gallons**

**Older washing machine: 40 gallons**

**Toilet flush (older): 4-7 gallons**

EnergyStar appliances save water and also require less electricity.

\* From IPUD Water System Regulation 117, "Water Shortage Emergency." Per State Water Code Sec. 377, a violation of a restriction may be prosecutable as a misdemeanor with punishment of up to 30 days in the county jail and/or a fine of up to \$1,000. A violator may also be held civilly liable for up to \$10,000 plus \$500 for each additional day the violation continues.