

Declaration of a Water Emergency
October 6, 2016

The First District Water Department and the South Norwalk Electric and Water Company provide potable water to Norwalk residents. Lack of rainfall is putting a strain on their water supplies. Both companies have asked their customers to voluntarily reduce water usage.

Drought conditions are forecast to continue into the foreseeable future. Water supplies may reach dangerously low levels if no significant rainfall is received in the near future. In order to enhance water conservation and help preserve water supplies needed for human consumption, sanitary purposes and fire protection, Mayor Harry Rilling is declaring a water emergency. Chapter 57 of the Norwalk Code of Ordinances provides the Mayor with this authority.

This Water Emergency is effective on October 9, 2016 and will remain in effect until reserves reach an acceptable level. The following activities are unlawful during the Water Emergency:

1. Sprinkling, watering, or irrigating shrubbery, trees, lawns, grass, ground cover, plants and flowers except when these items are intended for sale, is prohibited.
2. Washing automobiles, trucks, trailers, or boats except at automated facilities using no more than 45 gallons of potable water per vehicle is prohibited.
3. Washing or flushing walks, driveways, pavement, porches, or other outdoor surfaces is prohibited.
4. Use of fire hydrants for purposes other than the protection of public safety by a public agency is prohibited
5. Filling or draining ponds or lakes used for private or public recreational purposes is prohibited.
6. Knowingly allowing leaking plumbing fixtures is prohibited.

The Norwalk Police Department is charged with enforcing the conditions of this water emergency. Police Officers will first advise violators to curtail prohibited activities. Failure to comply will result in the issuance of a fine not to exceed \$90 per day for each day the violation exists.

The goal of this action is to make sure we have water when we need it. Cooperation and buy in from the public during this time is essential to the success of this effort. For tips on conserving water, please see the water department websites at www.firstdistrictwater.org and www.snew.org.