

CHESTERSM
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT



Chester Metropolitan District

Drought Management
Stage 2 Drought Information

The following are excerpts from the CMD Drought Management Plan and Policy as amended 02/17/2009.

Drought Watch: Stage 2 (Mandatory Conservation)

The Drought Response Representative will make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners regarding the need for the declaration of a Stage 2 drought. Upon determination by the Board of Commissioners that a severe water supply shortage exists, the Board of Commissioners will provide written notification to the public of this Stage 2 determination and voluntary reductions in the use of water for all purposes and mandatory restrictions on non-essential usage and restrictions on times when certain water use is allowed.

Specifically, the goal during this stage is to achieve a reduction in overall water use of 5-10%. To accomplish these goals, the Chester Metropolitan District will take the following actions:

- 1) The Board of Commissioners will issue a proclamation to be released to the local news media, the water customers of the Chester Metropolitan District and to the SC Department of Natural Resources' Drought Information Center that Stage 2 drought conditions are present.
- 2) Provide written notification to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center and routinely publish, in a newspaper of general circulation and social media in the service area of the water system, the mandatory conservation measures and restrictions to be placed on the use of water supplied by the utility. Voluntary and mandatory restrictions include:
 - a. Recommend voluntary reduction of residential water use to a maximum of 300 gallons per household or REU per day.
 - b. Discourage obtaining water from fire hydrants for construction purposes, fire drills or any purpose other than fire-fighting or flushing necessary to maintain water quality.
 - c. Limit use of water by commercial, agricultural and individual customers through mandatory restrictions as directed in this Drought Management Plan.
 - d. The Chester Metropolitan District will impose mandatory restrictions on the use of water supplied by the utility for activities including:
 - (i) For landscape design & maintenance, the use of low-volume, handheld watering applications is encouraged.

Limit the use of sprinklers, irrigation systems or other remote landscape watering devices to no more than two (2) days per week, staggering days based on odd and even addresses, between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Designated days will be recommended by the District's Drought Response Representative and approved by the District Board of Commissioners.

- (ii) Customers shall water newly seeded/sodded lawns one time per day for the first two-weeks after the seeding/sodding takes place. Watering may only take place between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. All watering of seeded/sodded lawns following the first two weeks of watering shall occur no more than (2) days per week, staggering days based on odd and even addresses, between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.
 - (iii) In all cases of landscape irrigation and maintenance, water runoff is strictly prohibited.
 - (iv) Limit water-based recreational activities that require filling newly constructed or drained structures such as swimming pools, water slides or other water-based recreational equipment. Reduce filling or maintaining public or private swimming pools to one time per drought period. Newly constructed public or private swimming pools may be filled one time per drought period. Recycled water must be in use for water slides and other water-related activities to continue operations.
 - (v) Eliminate the washing of structures, surfaces and vehicles as directed in the District's Water Conservation Plan.
 - (vi) Prohibit the use of water to maintain fountains, reflection ponds and decorative water bodies for aesthetic or scenic purposes, except where necessary to support aquatic life.
- 3) Intensify maintenance efforts to identify and correct water leaks in the distribution system.
- 4) Publicize widely the penalties to be imposed for proposed mandatory restrictions and the procedures to be followed if a variance in the restrictions is requested.

- 5) Expand the use of education and public relations efforts and emphasize the penalties associated with violating the mandatory restrictions.
- 6) Provide written notification monthly to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center regarding the success of the restrictions.
- 7) Provide a status update to the CW-DMAG on actual water withdrawal trends.

Enforcement of Restrictions

If any customer of the Chester Metropolitan District fails to comply with mandatory or emergency water use restrictions of this Policy or other declared restrictions deemed necessary by District Board of Commissioners, the customer shall be given a written notice of such failure to comply, which cites the date of said violation, and shall be assessed surcharges in accordance with the following schedule:

- A. RESIDENTIAL SURCHARGES:
 1. First violation - \$50, issued as a surcharge added to the customer's utility bill, or as a \$50 violation notice delivered by a Chester Metropolitan District courier.
 2. Second violation -\$100, issued as a surcharge added to the customer's utility bill, or as a \$100 violation notice delivered by a Chester Metropolitan District courier.
 3. Third violation - the customer's water service shall be terminated and restored only after payment of a surcharge or violation notice in the amount of \$150 in addition to all previously assessed surcharges or notices.
- B. OFFICE, COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL SURCHARGES
 1. First violation - \$100, issued as a surcharge added to the customer's utility bill, or as a \$100 violation notice delivered by a Chester Metropolitan District courier.
 2. Second violation -\$200, issued as a surcharge added to the customer's utility bill, or as a \$200 violation notice delivered by a Chester Metropolitan District courier.
 3. Third violation - the customer's water service shall be terminated and restored only after payment of a surcharge or violation notice in the amount of \$300 in addition to all previously assessed surcharges or notices.

The Chester Metropolitan District Board of Commissioners authorizes all designated law enforcement agencies and other authorized agencies or designated

employees in the respective jurisdiction which is being supplied water by the Chester Metropolitan District to diligently enforce the provisions of the Drought Response Policy.

Variances

Customers who, in their belief, are unable to comply with the mandatory water use restrictions of this Drought Response Policy, may petition for a variance from restrictions by filing a petition with the Chester Metropolitan District within ten (10) working days after the issuance of the Proclamation requiring water use restrictions.

Petitions for Variance may be submitted online via the Variance Application found at <https://chestermetrosc.com/drought-management>, or by visiting the CMD office.

In order for the variance to be granted, the petitioner must demonstrate clearly that compliance with the Policy cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage without having an adverse impact upon the best interests of the community. The Chester Metropolitan District is authorized to grant the request for variance.

In addition, the Chester Metropolitan District is authorized to grant temporary variances for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under the Policy if it is determined that failure to grant such variances could cause an emergency condition adversely affecting health, sanitation and fire protection for the public. No such variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Policy occurring prior to the issuance of the variance. Variances granted by the Chester Metropolitan District shall include a timetable for compliance and shall expire when the water supply shortage no longer exists, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements.

Full versions of the CMD Drought Management Plan and Policy are available for public viewing at the CMD Office or online at <https://chestermetrosc.com/drought-management/>. Any questions may be directed to Fred Castles, Executive Director at (803) 385-5123, or P.O. Box 550, Chester, SC 29706.