

September 14, 2020

Dear Franconia & Mittersill Water Customers,

Effective immediately, the Franconia Water Department is implementing an outdoor water ban for all Franconia and Mittersill water customers. This outdoor water ban requires that you refrain from using water outdoors such as watering of landscape areas and lawns, pool filling, washing of cars and other types of vehicles, and washing down of paved surfaces until precipitation mitigates drought conditions.

The entire state of New Hampshire is in a drought; the southeastern part of the state, including all of Rockingham County, is in a severe drought and the northern region of the state has been upgraded to moderate drought. NHDES has urged all systems in areas experiencing drought to implement mandatory outdoor water use restrictions, if they have not already. Low rainfall this spring and summer has created a significant rain deficit of over 9 inches. High evaporation rates during excessively warm summer days have exacerbated the severe drought conditions. The National Weather Service is predicting higher than average temperatures through October.

Saving water for essential uses, such as fire suppression, drinking, cooking, sanitation, and cleaning of clothes and dishes is paramount. A temporary ban of non-essential uses such as watering lawns, washing vehicles outdoors and hosing down of driveways are key to conserving water supplies until enough rain is received to replenish water sources. Let the lawn go dormant and use a commercial car wash facility that practices water recycling.

An above average amount of mild rainstorms that allow water to soak in are needed to fully recharge lakes, rivers and ground water sources before the winter. It is unlikely that the amount and type of rain needed will be received to fully recharge water sources. Widespread shortages are imminent if the recharge from rain is not used wisely. The Town of Franconia needs the cooperation of customers and residents to help protect water supplies.

Additional information about current drought conditions, water efficiency tips and drought guidance is available online at www.des.nh.gov and the Drought Management Program.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sandy Kellogg, Office Administrator, Franconia Water Department at waterdept@franconianh.org or 603-823-7752. Water Department office hours are Tuesdays – Thursdays, 8am – 12pm.

We thank you in advance for your help in the implementation of this important request.

Franconia Water Commissioners
Darrel Dietlein Dan Walker Kevin Johnson