



**THE WATER WORKS & SEWER BOARD  
of THE CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
EMERGENCY CONSERVATION RESPONSE PLAN**



**Drought Response**

The Gadsden Water Works & Sewer Board (GWWSB) addresses water shortage issues through the Emergency Conservation Response Plan. The water shortage may be the result of drought, unusual demand, or a system failure. A drought may deplete the available water supply or place stress on the GWWSB's ability to deliver water and unanticipated demands could exceed plant treatment capacity. A system failure could occur that would threaten the GWWSB's ability to deliver water to the entire service area. The GWWSB adopted this plan on \_\_\_\_\_ to address these issues.

The Emergency Conservation Response Plan applies to all persons, customers, and property served by the GWWSB. All entities that purchase water from the GWWSB will be required to follow the same restrictions and/or reductions in water use as the GWWSB's system.

The GWWSB General Manager is authorized by Board approval to implement conservation measures. Any of the following conditions may be adjusted to reflect changes in the water system at the discretion of the General Manager.

**Stage 1: WATER WATCH**

Conditions indicate that the probability of a water shortage is rising and steps should be taken to inform customers and ask for voluntary reductions in water use. No serious threat to water supplies is imminent, but the GWWSB is watching the water supply situation.

**Triggers:**

A "Water Watch" is in effect when the following conditions occur:

1. Daily water demand for three (3) consecutive days is in excess of 90% of the available yield and capacity of the C. B. Collier Water Treatment Plant. And,
2. Total system storage does not recover above 80% prior to 5 A.M.

**Goals:**

The goals of this stage are:

- To heighten public awareness of water conditions
- To ask for voluntary reduction in outdoor water use to avoid having to implement mandatory restrictions
- To maintain the integrity of the GWWSB water supply system to endure essential water needs, including life, safety and fire suppression

**Education Actions:**

1. The GWWSB will provide educational information to water customers about ways to conserve water using the following outlets: Direct mail, news releases, Comcast Channel 99, and the GWWSB website.
2. The GWWSB will make weekly news releases to the local media describing present conditions and indicating the water supply outlook for the upcoming week, asking customers for voluntary water conservation measures.
3. The GWWSB will post “Water Watch” information on the GWWSB website and Comcast Channel 99.

**Management Actions:**

1. System pressure will be maintained within normal pressure ranges.
2. The GWWSB will monitor its use of water and will reduce activities such as hydrant flushing and street cleaning.
3. The GWWSB will suspend or reduce outdoor watering of landscaping on medians and at City of Gadsden facilities to conserve water.
4. System water demand will be satisfied by the capacity of the C. B. Collier Water Treatment Plant.

**Regulation Actions:**

When conditions require a reduction in water demands to avoid implementing mandatory restrictions, customers will be urged to reduce outdoor water use. When it is first recognized that a water supply problem is developing, the following voluntary water conservation measures will be requested:

- (a) Voluntarily implement an alternate day (odd/even) schedule for outdoor watering.
- (b) Limit nonessential outdoor water use and implement wise outdoor watering.
- (c) Water between 10 P. M. 6 A. M.
- (d) Limit, or eliminate, outdoor water use on weekends.
- (e) Use a soaker hose to apply water efficiently to plants.
- (f) Limit car washing at home or use a commercial carwash that recycles water.
- (g) Avoid hosing down outside areas such as sidewalks, patios, and driveways.

**Requirements for Termination of WATER WATCH:**

The “Water Watch” will be terminated when the triggering events have ceased to exist, but the GWWSB will continue to promote wise outdoor watering throughout the summer months.

When conditions are such that more stringent conservation measures are required, a “Water Warning” shall be declared and mandatory conservation measures will be required.

**Stage 2: WATER WARNING**

As the water supply problems become more severe, a “WATER WARNING” will be implemented. In a “WATER WARNING”, water shortage conditions are present and water supplies decline. Additional reductions in water use are encouraged, and mandatory restrictions are placed on outdoor water use. The GWWSB is able

to meet demands as they exist, but lowering the demands will extend the GWWSB's ability to meet future demands without significant disruption. The following requirements will be in effect throughout a "WATER WARNING":

**Triggers:**

A "WATER WARNING" is in effect when the following conditions occur:

1. Daily water demand for three (3) consecutive days is in excess of 95% of the available yield and capacity of the C. B. Collier Water Treatment Plant. And,
2. Total system storage does not recover above 70% prior to 5 A. M.

**Goals:**

The goals of this stage are:

- To reduce peak demands to manageable levels.
- To maintain the integrity of the GWWSB water supply system to endure essential water needs, including life safety and fire suppression

**Education Actions:**

1. The GWWSB will provide weekly new releases to water customers describing present conditions and the water supply outlook, and description of the water restrictions in effect using the following outlets: Direct mail, news releases, Comcast Channel 99, and the GWWSB website.
2. The GWWSB will post "Water Warning" information on the GWWSB website and Comcast Channel 99.
3. The GWWSB will post water conservation articles on the GWWSB website.

**Management Actions:**

1. System pressure will be maintained within normal pressure ranges.
2. The GWWSB will monitor its use of water and will reduce activities such as hydrant flushing and street cleaning.
3. The GWWSB will suspend or reduce outdoor watering of landscaping on medians and at City of Gadsden facilities to conserve water.
4. System water demand will be satisfied by the capacity of the C. B. Collier Water Treatment Plant.
5. The GWWSB will review previous historical data and pass along any relevant findings to customers.

**Regulation Actions:**

1. A mandatory alternate day (odd/even) lawn watering schedule (or equivalent demand reduction procedure) will be imposed on all water customers. Customers with odd-numbered addresses will water on odd-numbered calendar days, and even-numbered addresses will water on even-numbered calendar days. These restrictions shall not apply to any person, firm, or corporation engaged in the business of growing or selling plants of any kind. Additional exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

2. Outdoor water use, including lawn watering and car washing, will be restricted to the hours between 10 P. M. 6 A. M.
3. Golf courses will be restricted from irrigating with potable water.
4. Procedures that provide water demand reduction that is equivalent to odd/even watering schedules will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Requirements for Termination of WATER WARNING:**

The “Water Warning” shall terminate when the triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of fourteen (14) consecutive days, or when substantial changes in weather conditions occur, affecting water demand. Upon termination of a “Water Warning”, a “Water Watch”, as described on page 1 of 5, becomes operative.

When conditions are such that more stringent conservation measures are required, a “Water Emergency” shall be declared and mandatory conservation measures will be required.

### **Stage 3: WATER EMERGENCY**

As the water supply problem continues to deteriorate, a “WATER EMERGENCY” will be implemented. In a “WATER EMERGENCY”, severe water shortage conditions are present and supplies are limited. Mandatory restrictions on outdoor water use are in-place. System failure is a possibility if conditions do not improve or demands do not decline. The following restrictions will be in effect during a “WATER EMERGENCY”:

#### **Triggers:**

A “WATER EMERGENCY” is in effect when the following conditions occur:

1. Daily water demand for two (2) consecutive days is in excess of 100% of the available yield and capacity of the C. B. Collier Water Treatment Plant. And,
2. Total system storage does not recover above 60% prior to 5 A. M.

#### **Goals:**

The goals of this stage are:

- To reduce peak demands to manageable levels.
- To maintain the integrity of the GWWSB water supply system to endure essential water needs, including life safety and fire suppression

#### **Education Actions:**

1. The GWWSB will provide weekly new releases to water customers describing present conditions and the water supply outlook, and description of the water restrictions in effect using the following outlets: Direct mail, news releases, Comcast Channel 99, and the GWWSB website.
2. The GWWSB will post “Water Warning” information on the GWWSB website and Comcast Channel 99.
3. The GWWSB will post water conservation articles on the GWWSB website.
4. The GWWSB may hold public meeting(s) to discuss the emergency, the status of the GWWSB potable water supply, and further actions that may need to be taken.

**Management Actions:**

1. System pressure will be maintained within normal pressure ranges.
2. The GWWSB will monitor its use of water and will reduce activities such as hydrant flushing and street cleaning.
3. The GWWSB will suspend or reduce outdoor watering of landscaping on medians and at City of Gadsden facilities to conserve water.
4. System water demand will be satisfied by the capacity of the C. B. Collier Water Treatment Plant.
5. The GWWSB will review previous historical data and pass along any relevant findings to customers.
6. The GWWSB may seek additional emergency water supply from surrounding municipalities.

**Regulation Actions:**

As the water supply problem continues to deteriorate, additional mandatory restrictions will be placed on essential uses. "WATER EMERGENCY" restrictions will be in effect whenever additional restrictions are necessary so that no water customers of the GWWSB will be without water. The following restrictions will be in effect during a "Water Emergency":

1. Outdoor water use with potable water will be prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: Water used for outdoor watering, either public or private, for gardens, lawns, trees, shrubs, plants, park, golf courses, playing fields, swimming pools or other recreational areas; or the washing of motor vehicles, boats, trailers, or the exterior of any building or structure.
2. Only non-potable water sources may be used to perform the outdoor watering.

**Requirements for Termination of WATER EMERGENCY:**

The "WATER EMERGENCY" shall terminate when the triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of fourteen (14) consecutive days, or when substantial changes in weather conditions occur, affecting water demand. Upon termination of a "Water Emergency", a "Water Watch", as described on page 2 of 5, becomes operative.

**Plan Revision, Monitoring, and Evaluation**

The GWWSB Emergency Conservation Response Plan will be reviewed during the month of April each year and on a more frequent basis during drought or other water shortage conditions. If the GWWSB Emergency Conservation Response Plan was not implemented in the previous twelve (12) calendar months, the plan will be deemed appropriate.