



# Drought Management Strategy

## BACKGROUND

MVRWSC has two current diversion licenses from the Red Deer River;

- 1975-07-02-0 – for 8,070 acre-feet (9,954,198 m<sup>3</sup>) annually
  - No restrictions on this license for diversion
- 2001-11-26-010 – for 3,380,995 m<sup>3</sup> annually (MV and RV Counties)
  - Flows in the river must meet or exceed the WCO of 16 m<sup>3</sup>/s for this license to be able to divert

## INTRODUCTION

Water restrictions provide the means for reducing water usage during times when source water (river water) is limited. The purpose of restrictions is to limit non-essential use so water is available for essential uses such as human consumption, sanitation, firefighting, etc. The intent of restrictions is to resolve short-term supply shortages and are not intended to address long term supply issues.

## RESTRICTION ACTIVATION

Restrictions will be activated when water demand exceeds the capabilities of the source water supply in the Red Deer River. This condition will often be associated with periods of drought causing declining reservoir levels (Dickson Dam) with the inability to recover even during nonpeak use times. The MVRWSC Chairman, CAO and Director of Operations will evaluate supply and usage conditions, in consultation with the Province of Alberta, and determine if restrictions are necessary and which level of restriction should be implemented.

## WATER ALLOCATIONS

Allocations will be calculated using the available supply and population statistics from the Government of Alberta Municipal Affairs to determine a per capita supply. This is outlined in Appendix A of the Water Supply Agreement. Each member municipality and customer will be responsible for bringing usage levels within the available per capita supply.



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## **RESTRICTION NOTIFICATION**

MVRWSC will communicate restriction levels and allocations to member municipality administration as outlined in the Water Supply Agreement and non-member customers will be notified as per their Agreement. Member municipalities and customers are responsible for public notice of restrictions. MVRWSC will give as much advance notice of restrictions as possible.

## **RESTRICTION ENFORCEMENT**

Member municipalities are responsible for the enforcement of restrictions within their respective jurisdictions. MVRWSC will enforce restrictions placed on non-member customers.

## **RESTRICTION LEVELS**

MVRWSC will issue restriction level advisories as recommended measures to reduce demand. However, member municipalities and customers are only required to bring usage within their prescribed allocation. The restrictions used may vary between municipalities with some using less or more stringent restrictions to meet their allocated supply. Voluntary reductions below allocations are encouraged and would serve member self-interests by reducing the duration and severity of restrictions.

**Recommended water restrictions for each member municipality are as follows:**

### Restriction Level 1 Recommendation

The following residential uses are permitted only during even numbered days at even numbered addresses and odd numbered days at odd numbered addresses:

- Lawn watering
- Filling of swimming pools and spas
- Filling of fountains and other water features
- Washing of Outdoor surfaces (driveways)



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Restriction Level 1A Recommendation

The following residential uses are permitted only during even numbered days at even numbered addresses and odd numbered days at odd numbered addresses between the hours of 7:00pm and 9:00am for 1 hour:

- Lawn watering
- Filling of swimming pools and spas
- Filling of fountains and other water features

Restriction Level 1B Recommendation

The following residential uses are permitted at even numbered addresses on Mondays and Thursdays and odd numbered addresses on Tuesday and Friday between the hours of 8:00pm and 8:00am for 30minutes:

- Lawn watering
- Filling of swimming pools and spas (topping off only)
- Filling of fountains and other water features (topping off only)

Restriction Level 2 Recommendation

The following residential uses are not permitted:

- Lawn watering
- Filling of swimming pools and spas
- Filling of fountains and other water features
- Washing of vehicles, homes, driveways, windows, patios, paths, boats, etc.
- Use of children’s water toys including Slip and slides, etc.

The following non-residential uses are not permitted:

- Lawn watering (except for turf farms)
- Washing driveways, paths, patios, windows, etc.

Restriction Level 3 Recommendation

The following residential uses are not permitted:

- Lawn watering
- Watering gardens and flower beds
- Filling of swimming pools and spas



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- Filling of fountains and other water features
  - Washing of vehicles, homes, driveways, windows, patios, paths, boats, etc.
  - Use of water toys

The following non-residential uses are to be limited / reduced:

- Bulk water sales
- Use by commercial nurseries and market gardens
- Use by commercial car wash facilities
- Limiting commercial, industrial and institutional use

The following non-residential uses are not permitted:

- Lawn watering (including turf farms)
- Washing driveways, paths, patios, windows, etc.

#### Restriction Level 4 Recommendation

Only residential use for consumption, preparation of food, sanitary and hygienic purposes is permitted.

Only essential commercial, industrial and institutional use permitted such as hospitals, fire fighting, etc.

#### **RESTRICTION EXEMPTIONS**

Exemptions to these restrictions may be granted if the user can demonstrate reasonable need. Uses eligible for exemption within each member municipality will be at the discretion of each respective member and forwarded to the Commission for review. MVRWSC Chairman and CAO will evaluate and issue exemptions for non-member customers. All exemptions granted will be approved in writing.

#### **RESCINDING & ADJUSTMENT of RESTRICTIONS**

MVRWSC Chairman, CAO and Director of Operations will evaluate supply and usage conditions and determine if restrictions are necessary or if restriction levels or allocations require adjustment.

Approved by MVRWSC Board of Directors April 9, 2025

# OUTDOOR

# WATER RESTRICTION

## STAGES

### Do your part!

Stay informed on water restrictions and understand what actions you need to take. Updates will be shared on The City's social media, website and through local media.

### The City's role

We'll monitor conditions and determine when restrictions need to be implemented or adjusted. Where possible, we will also reduce water use in our operations.

### Enforcement

We strive to take an education-first approach about the importance of reducing water, rather than enforcement. Fines can range from \$250 to \$2,500, plus disconnection of water service.

[reddeer.ca/drought](http://reddeer.ca/drought)



MVRWSC

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1A

1B

2

		STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
		VOLUNTARY restrictions	MANDATORY restrictions	MANDATORY restrictions	MANDATORY restrictions
WATERING	<b>Sprinklers and irrigation</b>	<b>Even numbered addresses:</b> Even days of the month  <b>Odd numbered addresses:</b> Odd days of the month  <b>Watering is allowed from:</b> 7 p.m. to 9 a.m. for 1 hour  <i>*Newly planted lawn can be watered on all days at any time for 3 hours for 3 weeks after planting</i>		<b>Even numbered addresses:</b> Mondays & Thursdays  <b>Odd numbered addresses:</b> Tuesdays & Fridays  <b>Watering is allowed from:</b> 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. for 30 mins	<b>NO</b>
	<b>Hoses with spray nozzle</b> <i>(only for gardens, trees and shrubs)</i>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO</b>
	<b>Hand Watering</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
WASHING	<b>Vehicles</b>	Only at car wash	Only at car wash	Only at car wash	Only at car wash
FILLING & REFILLING	<b>Swimming pools and hot tubs</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	Topping off allowed	<b>NO</b>
	<b>Ponds, fountains, water parks and water features</b>	<b>Even numbered addresses:</b> Mondays & Thursdays  <b>Odd numbered addresses:</b> Tuesdays & Fridays  <b>Filling and refilling allowed from:</b> 7 p.m. and 9 a.m.		Topping off allowed	<b>NO</b>
CLEANING	<b>Outdoor surfaces</b> <i>(driveways, decks, patios, etc.)</i>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO</b>