

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

TOWN OFFICES, 1 DRINKWATER ROAD 603-926-4618



NEW HAMPSHIRE 03844

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town of Hampton Falls Water Restrictions

HAMPTON FALLS, NH – The Selectmen are recommending town residents conserve water and refrain from using water outdoors such as watering of landscape areas and lawns, pool filling and washing paved surfaces until the current drought conditions have subsided.

The southern half of New Hampshire, including all of Rockingham County, is in an Extreme Drought. Low snow pack last winter, precipitation well below 50% of normal and high evaporation rates during the summer days have all contributed to the extreme drought. The National Weather Service is predicting below normal precipitation through the autumn as well.

Water conservation efforts by everyone for essential uses: drinking, cooking, sanitation, fire protection and cleaning of clothes and dishes is critical. Some recommended conservation ideas include:

- Lawns – stop watering and let it go dormant early this year
- Sinks – replace aerator to reduce amount of water flowing. Wash dishes in a dish pan vs. continuously running water.
- Showers – reduce time to 5 minutes or less, replace showerhead with a lower Gallon per Minute (GPM) requirement.
- Clothes / Dish Washers – run only when full and consider replacing if over 10 years' old with Energy Star certified units.
- Toilets – add a few drops of food color to the tank, if the bowl turns colors then the flapper needs to be replaced (very easy to do and saves hundreds of gallons of water)

NH Department of Environmental Services webpage has more information and can be found at the following link: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/drought/index.htm>

Without substantial precipitation before the ground freezes for the winter and a good amount of snowpack this coming winter, drought conditions will get worse next year. Under RSA 41:11-d the HF Selectmen do have the authority to restrict the watering of lawns from private wells and may have to implement this regulation in 2017 if the drought is persistent.