



## City of Spearfish Water Conservation Program

The City of Spearfish Water Conservation Program is established under the direction of the Spearfish Common Council to assist in water conservation within the city of Spearfish. It is the intent of the program to gain compliance through education and public interaction, emphasizing good stewardship of water resources and how it can directly save customers money on their utility bill.

Spearfish City Ordinance prohibits residential or business lawn watering between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

### Water Conservation Alert Status Indicators

The Water Conservation Alert Status Indicators will be used to inform our customers of the water restriction level currently observed within the city of Spearfish. The Alert Status Indicators will be posted in city buildings, on the City Facebook page, and on the city of Spearfish webpage. Information may also be distributed through the Black Hills Pioneer, utility bill messages or special billing inserts, door hangers, and any other communication strategies that may arise.

#### **Alert Status Indicator Code Definitions:**

##### **Code Blue – Voluntary Water Conservation Alert**



Customers are encouraged to practice water conservation. This includes irrigating lawns on an every other day schedule (i.e., only watering on odd or even dates of the month)

##### **Code Yellow – Mandatory Conservation Alert**



Customers are required to follow an every other day irrigation schedule. Even numbered addresses may water on even numbered calendar days and odd numbered addresses may water on odd numbered calendar days. Customers are encouraged to limit outdoor water use and minimize indoor water use.

The water/wastewater utilities superintendent, with the consent of the city administrator and the public works director, can move the city to Code Yellow. The Common Council will be notified at the next regular council meeting.

##### **Code Orange – Rationing Conservation Alert**



Customers are encouraged to minimize indoor water use and are required to limit outdoor water use. Mandatory water restrictions for the use of municipal water include:

- Outdoor irrigation is limited to vegetable gardens only between the hours 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Irrigation of lawns is prohibited. Gardens may only be watered with watering cans/buckets or handheld hoses that have a nozzle shut off.
- The use of water to clean, maintain, fill or refill decorative fountains or similar structures is prohibited.
- Vehicle washing, including automobiles, trucks, trailers, and boats, from residential water spigots is prohibited. Vehicles are exempt if cleaning is necessary to preserve the proper function and safe operation of the vehicle. Businesses providing vehicle wash services are permitted to maintain operations.
- Washing of paved surfaces such as streets, roads, sidewalks, driveways, garages, parking areas, and patios is prohibited.

Moving to Code Orange requires a resolution by the Common Council.

##### **Code Red – Critical Water Conservation Alert**



Code Red will be implemented in emergency situations, such as significant damage to infrastructure (pumps, water lines, etc.), severe wildfire in the area, large structure fires, prolonged power outages, or other catastrophic events. During a Code Red, municipal water may only be used for health and safety needs. Customers are strongly encouraged to minimize indoor water use and are prohibited from all outdoor water use.

It is intended that Code Red be declared for a limited amount of time until the water supply system can be stabilized. The water/wastewater utilities superintendent, with the consent of the city administrator and the public works director, can declare a Code Red for up to 72 hours. A Code Red declaration for longer than 72 hours requires a resolution by the Common Council.

#### **\*Exceptions\***

Newly installed grass lawns are excepted from Code Blue voluntary conservation practices and Code Yellow mandatory conservation requirements for two weeks following the installation of the grass lawn. There is no exception for newly installed lawns when the city moves to Code Orange or Code Red.