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According to the National Weather Service's United States Seasonal Outlook for Jan. 5 - March 31, 2012, Texas is still in the category of "drought to persist or intensify."

The City's rainfall amounts reflect that outlook. Year to date, Burleson has seen 24.04 inches of rain. That's down from the yearly average of 37 inches of rain.

According to the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD), approximately 70 percent of the state is in an extreme or exceptional drought. Parts of North Texas are now classified as abnormally dry.

On Aug. 25, the City of Burleson enacted Stage 1 water restrictions, or a Water Watch, when water levels fell to 75 percent. The levels are now at 70 percent. A Water Warning is issued when water supply levels fall to 60 percent.

This Water Watch is in keeping with the TRWD, which supplies water to an 11-county area, including Tarrant County. Burleson buys its water from the City of Fort Worth. Fort Worth is supplied by the TRWD. All direct customers and indirect customers of the TRWD are affected by the restrictions.

Since 2009 the City of Burleson has banned watering with irrigation or sprinkler systems, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., year round. This includes residential and non-residential customers. On Aug. 25, the following restrictions were enacted, and remain in place today.

With the Stage 1 Water Restrictions, landscape watering is now limited to twice a week.

- Residential addresses that end in even numbers (0, 2, 4, 6, and 8) may water on Wednesday and Saturday.
- Residential addresses that end in odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7, and 9) may water on Thursday and Sunday.
- Non-residential addresses (apartments, businesses, parks, medians, etc.) may water on Tuesday and Friday.
- There is no landscape watering on Monday.

Stage 1 Water Restrictions also mean:

- No hosing of paved areas (i.e. sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, patios, or other impervious surfaces) except to alleviate an immediate health/safety hazard.
- No hosing of buildings or structures other than for purposes of fire protection or surface preparation prior to painting.
- Vehicle washing limited to hand-held bucket or hose with positive-pressure shutoff nozzle for quick rinses. Commercial car washes are exempted from this requirement and may continue to operate within normal procedures.

Stage 1 is enacted when the combined storage capacity of the TRWD reservoirs reaches 75 percent. The four reservoirs are Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake, Cedar Creek and Richland-Chambers. The TRWD also gets water from Lake Benbrook. Fort Worth draws water from Lake Worth.

The TRWD's goal with the Stage 1 Water Restrictions is to lower water use by 5 percent.