



# EXETER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Town of Exeter Mandatory Water Restrictions**

EXETER, NH - The Town of Exeter is issuing a Level 2 water restriction, effective Tuesday, July 7, 2020, to all town residents and water customers to conserve water and limit the use of water outdoors for watering of landscape areas and lawns.

The southern half of the state of New Hampshire, including all of Rockingham County, has been declared a moderate drought. Low snowpack this past winter and spring, precipitation much below normal, and high evaporation rates during hot spring and summer days have all contributed to the moderate drought conditions. The National Weather Service is predicting above normal temperatures to continue through September.

Saving water for essential uses, such as fire suppression, drinking, cooking, sanitation and cleaning of clothes and dishes is paramount. Water use restrictions limit non-essential uses of water. In a Level 2 restriction, landscape and lawn watering is only allowed every other day between the hours of 7 pm and 8 am; odd numbered addresses are allowed to water on odd numbered days and even numbered addresses on even numbered days. These restrictions also apply to private residential well owners; it is critical to start conserving water now to preserve your well during a drought. It is recommended to use a commercial car wash facility that practices water recycling rather than washing your vehicle outside and to stop hosing down paved surfaces. The following outdoor water uses are not restricted: hand irrigation of crops used for food, water to sustain animal life, commercial car washes, cash crops, farms, flower shops and garden centers.

Additional information about current drought conditions, water efficiency tips and drought guidance is available online at the NHDES Drought Management Program at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/drought/index.htm> . Additional tips on ways to save water and have healthy plants are available at UNH Cooperative Extension <https://extension.unh.edu/blog/water-conservation-fundamentals-gardening-and-landscaping> and <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/using-water-efficiently-landscape>

For more information contact Exeter Public Works at (603) 773-6157.