

Preparations for Drought, Hurricane or Other Possible Water Supply Disruption

At present most of Alabama is experiencing abnormally dry or drought conditions. The ADEM Drinking Water Branch is encouraging you to take this opportunity to review both your **Water Conservation** and **Emergency Response** plans.

The following actions may assist you in preventing a major disruption of water supply to your customers due to drought and/or hurricane:

- Ensure proper operation and maintenance of water treatment and control systems to include backup and/or auxiliary equipment (including generators, if applicable).
- Delay maintenance activities that require removal of water sources or treatment units from service until rainfall conditions improve.
- Enhance best management practices as necessary (increase inspection frequencies, evaluate pump run times, etc) to detect and repair leaks and problems quickly. Do not delay asking for assistance from other water systems when necessary.
- Review the Water Conservation and/or Emergency Response plans to ensure information and procedures for executing plans are current.
- Review triggers in the System's Water Conservation Plan to ensure the next stage of the plan can be implemented prior to major disruption of the water supply.

The following steps are recommended, as necessary:

- Identify alternate permitted sources of water and begin the process of obtaining the necessary agreements/contracts.
- Monitor the level of your storage tanks several times a day.
- Implement your Water Conservation Plan to include voluntary or mandatory water conservation. Consider implementation of voluntary measures early.

Any community public water system which implements any voluntary or mandatory water use restrictions or reductions shall report, in writing, to the ADECA's Office of Water Resources (AOWR) within seven (7) days of the issuance of such restriction or reduction. The report shall describe, at a minimum, the restrictions or reductions or other measures implemented, the effective date, the expiration date or length of time they are estimated to remain in place, and the name of the system official that authorized the water use restriction. Within seven (7) days after modifying or lifting restrictions, reductions or other measures utilized to protect water supplies during a drought, the community public water system shall notify AOWR of the modification or lifting of restrictions, reductions or other drought response measures and the effective date of such action. You may submit such notices via email to AOWR at water@adeca.alabama.gov. Additional information is available on the AOWR website (www.water.alabama.gov) or by calling (334) 242-5499.

As always, if your facility needs any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact your area engineer. Please notify the Department if you implement any part of your Water Conservation Plan or if your system experiences a major disruption of water supply to its customers. It is imperative this information be reported as soon as possible.