



# WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA



The procedures herein are written to reduce potable water demand and supplement existing drinking water supplies whenever existing water supply sources are inadequate to meet current demands for potable water.

## ARTICLE I. AUTHORIZATION

The Town Manager shall enact the following water shortage response provisions whenever the trigger conditions outlined in Article IV are met. In his or her absence, the Public Service Director will assume this role.

**Mr. David Walker, Town Manager**  
Telephone: (252) 726-2121, ext. 237  
email: [townmanager@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto:townmanager@atlanticbeach-nc.com)

**Mr. Marc Schulze, Public Services Director**  
Telephone: (252) 726-1366  
email: [publicservicesdirector@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto:publicservicesdirector@atlanticbeach-nc.com)

## ARTICLE II. NOTIFICATION

The following notification methods will be used to inform water system employees and customers of a water shortage declaration:

- employee e-mail
- notices posted at municipal buildings
- notices in customer water bills
- Town of Atlantic Beach website

Required water shortage response measures will be communicated through the Carteret News-Times; public service announcements on local radio stations and television stations; and the town's website.

Declarations of emergency water restrictions or water rationing will be communicated to all customers by telephone through use of Reverse 9-1-1.

## ARTICLE III. STAGES OF RESPONSE

Five (5) stages of water shortage responses are outlined in the table below. The five stages of water shortage response are:

- Voluntary Reductions
- Mandatory Reductions I
- Mandatory Reductions II
- Emergency Reductions
- Water Rationing

WATER SHORTAGE STAGE	RESPONSE	DESCRIPTION
1	Voluntary Reductions	Water users are encouraged to reduce their water use and improve water use efficiency; however, no penalties apply for noncompliance. Water supply conditions indicate a potential for shortage.
2	Mandatory Reductions I	Water users must abide by required water use reductions and efficiency measures; penalties apply for noncompliance. Water supply conditions are significantly lower than the seasonal norm and water shortage conditions are expected to persist.
3	Mandatory Reductions II	Same as in Stage 2
4	Emergency Reductions	Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and pose an imminent threat to human health or environmental integrity.
5	Water Rationing	Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and remaining supplies must be allotted to preserve human health and environmental integrity.

### Stage 1 - Voluntary Reductions

All water users will be asked to reduce their normal water use by 5%. Customer education and outreach programs will encourage water conservation and efficiency measures including irrigating landscapes a maximum of one inch (1”) per week, preventing water waste, runoff and watering impervious surfaces; watering plants deeply to encourage root growth; washing only full loads in clothes and dishwashers; using spring-loaded nozzles on garden hoses; and identifying and repairing all water leaks.

### Stage 2 - Mandatory Reductions I

All customers are expected to reduce their water usage by 10% in comparison to their previous month’s water bill. In addition to continuing to encourage all voluntary reduction actions, the following restrictions apply: irrigation is limited to half inch (1/2 “) per week between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.; outdoor use of drinking water for impervious surfaces is prohibited; and all testing and training purposes requiring drinking water (e.g. fire protection) will be limited.

### Stage 3 - Mandatory Reductions II

Customers must continue actions from all previous stages and further reduce water by 20% compared to their previous month's water bill. All non-essential uses of drinking water are banned. Garden and landscape irrigation must be reduced to the minimum amount necessary for survival.

### Stage 4 - Emergency Reductions

Customers must continue all actions from previous stages and further reduce their water usage by 25% compared to their last month's water bill. A ban on all use of drinking water except to protect public health and safety is implemented.

### Stage 5 - Water Rationing

The goal of Stage 5 - Water Rationing is to provide drinking water to protect public health (e.g. residences, residential health care facilities and correctional facilities). In Stage 5, all customers are only permitted to use water at the minimum required for public health protection. Firefighting is the only allowable outdoor water use. Pickup locations for distributing potable water will be announced according to the Atlantic Beach Emergency Response Plan.

## ARTICLE IV. TRIGGERS

Triggers for Atlantic Beach are provided below. The Town of Atlantic Beach water source is groundwater. The following measurements of well pumping times and well levels in relationship to pump intake levels trigger entry into corresponding water restriction states.

WATER SHORTAGE STAGE	WELL OPERATING CONDITIONS
1	Pumping Time > 10 hrs 20% reduction in seasonal normal distance from static water level and pump intake 20% increase pumping time for same output
2	Pumping Time > 12 hrs 40% reduction in distance from static water level and pump intake 40% increase pumping time for same output
3	Pumping Time > 14 hrs 60% reduction in distance from static water level and pump intake 60% increase pumping time for same output
4	Pumping Time > 20 hrs 80% reduction in distance from static water level and pump intake
5	Water level at pump intake elevation

## ARTICLE V. ENFORCEMENT

The provisions of the Water Shortage Response Plan will be enforced by the Town of Atlantic Beach Public Services Department and the Atlantic Beach Police Department. Violators may be reported to the town by telephone and/or email to [watersupervisor@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto:watersupervisor@atlanticbeach-nc.com). Citations are assessed according to the following schedule depending on the number of prior violations and current level of water shortage.

WATER SHORTAGE STAGE	1 <sup>st</sup> Violation	2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation	3 <sup>rd</sup> Violation
1 Voluntary Reduction	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 Mandatory Reductions I	Warning	\$250	Discontinuation of Service
3 Mandatory Reductions II	Warning	\$250	Discontinuation of Service
4 Emergency Reductions	\$250	Discontinuation of Service	Discontinuation of Service
5 Water Rationing	\$500	Discontinuation of Service	Discontinuation of Service

## ARTICLE VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Customers will have multiple opportunities to comment, both orally and written, on the provisions of the Water Shortage Response Plan.

Below lists the various methods that will notify customers that a final draft has been completed and posted; the locations as to where the draft may be viewed and how any comments may be submitted

Customers will have **30 days** following the posting of a final draft of the Water Shortage Response Plan and prior to the scheduling for adoption at the next regularly scheduled Atlantic Beach Town Council meeting to submit comments, both oral and written.

Methods of Notification to customers:

- Notice printed on water bill
- Notice posted at Atlantic Beach Town Hall, 125 West Fort Macon Rd.
- Notice posted on town website: [www.atlanticbeach-nc.com](http://www.atlanticbeach-nc.com)

Methods for submitting Public Comments (both oral and written):

- Telephone/email: James Sebastian, Water Supervisor - Town of Atlantic Beach, NC  
(252) 726-1366, ext. 2256  
[watersupervisor@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto:watersupervisor@atlanticbeach-nc.com)

Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk - Town of Atlantic Beach, NC  
(252) 726-2121, ext. 2238  
[townclerk@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto:townclerk@atlanticbeach-nc.com)

- Mail: Town of Atlantic Beach  
ATTN: Water Dept. OR Town Clerk (choose one)  
P. O. Box 10  
125 W. Fort Macon Rd.  
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

## **ARTICLE VII. EXEMPTIONS/VARIANCE PROTOCOLS**

Requests for exemptions or variances from specific requirements of the Water Shortage Response Plan must be submitted to the Utility office and for review by the Public Services Director or his/her designee clearly stating the purpose for the request. A decision to approve or deny individual variance requests will be determined within two (2) weeks of submittal after careful consideration of the following criteria; impact on water demand, expected duration, alternative source options, social and economic importance, purpose (i.e. necessary use of drinking water) and the prevention of structural damage.

## **ARTICLE VIII. EFFECTIVENESS**

The effectiveness of the Atlantic Beach Water Shortage Response Plan will be determined by comparing the stated water conservation goals with observed water use reduction data. Other factors to be considered include frequency of plan activation, any problem periods without activation, total number violation citations, desired reductions attained and evaluation of demand reductions compared to the previous year's data.

## **ARTICLE IX. REVISION**

The Atlantic Beach Water Shortage Response Plan will be reviewed and revised as needed to adapt to new circumstances affecting water and demand, following implementation of emergency restrictions, and at a minimum of every five (5) years in conjunction with the updating of our Local Water Supply Plan. Further, a Water Shortage Response Plan working group will review procedures following each emergency or rationing stage to recommend any necessary improvements to the plan to the Atlantic Beach Town Council. The Town of Atlantic Beach Public Services Director is responsible for initiating all subsequent revisions.