

## To All Members of Crawford Mesa Water Association

On June 22, Governor Jared Polis request activation of Colorado's Drought Task Force and Phase 2 of the State Drought Mitigation and Response Plan as drought conditions deepen, reaching more than 81% of the state, with severe and extreme drought conditions in 33% of the state (40 counties).

Colorado's Drought Task Force - which includes leadership from the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Local Affairs, Public Safety, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board - determined the need to activate Phase 2 of the Drought Plan on June 18 after a third of the state reached extreme drought conditions. "Phase 2" indicates officially directing the Drought Task Force to assess initial damages and impacts of drought in areas experiencing severe or extreme drought and to recommend mitigation measures. This Phase also activates the Agricultural Impact Task Force, which will conduct an initial assessment on physical and economic impacts and recommend opportunities for incident mitigation.

Counties impacted by abnormally dry (D0) and moderate (D1) drought will continue to be closely monitored. The 40 counties currently experiencing severe (D2) and extreme (D3) drought include: Alamosa, Archuleta, Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Cheyenne, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Delta, Dolores, Eagle, El Paso, Elbert, Fremont, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Kiowa, Kit Carson, La Plata, Las Animas, Lincoln, Mesa, Mineral, Montezuma, Montrose, Otero, Ouray, Pitkin, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Miguel, San Juan, Washington, and Yuma.

**With this in mind CMWA would like to offer ways to conserve our domestic drinking water. CMWA is always on alert to any leaks on our water line and when found repairs them without delay. Currently the Hamilton Springs is being rehabbed and will be put back on line this coming spring. This will add 12 gpm to our system. Our main spring has lower production than in the past and is at 46 gpm. With our members help we all can pay more attention to ways we use our precious water.**

### **1. Check your toilet for leaks**

Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the coloring begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak that may be wasting more than 100 gallons of water a day.

### **2. Stop using your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket**

Every cigarette butt or tissue you flush away also flushes away five to seven gallons of water.

### **3. Put a plastic bottle in your toilet tank**

Put an inch or two of sand or pebbles in the bottom of a one liter bottle to weigh it down. Fill the rest of the bottle with water and put it in your toilet tank, safely away from the operating mechanism. In an average home, the bottle may save five gallons or more of water every day without harming the efficiency of the toilet. If your tank is big enough, you may even be able to put in two bottles.

### **4. Take shorter showers**

A typical shower uses five to ten gallons of water a minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rise off.

### **5. Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors**

Your hardware or plumbing supply store stocks inexpensive shower heads or flow restrictors that will cut your shower flow to about three gallons a minute instead of five to ten. They are easy to install, and your showers will still be cleansing and refreshing.

### **6. Take baths**

A partially filled tub uses less water than all but the shortest showers.

### **7. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth**

Before brushing, wet your brush and fill a glass for rinsing your mouth.

### **8. Turn off the water while shaving**

Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of warm water in which to rinse your razor.

### **9. Check faucets and pipes for leaks**

Even a small drip can waste 50 or more gallons of water a day.

### **10. Use your automatic dishwasher for full loads only**

Every time you run your dishwasher, you use about 25 gallons of water.

**11. Use your automatic washing machine only for full loads only**

Your automatic washer uses 30 to 35 gallons per cycle.

**12. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables**

Rinse your vegetables instead in a bowl or sink full of clean water.

**13. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator**

This puts a stop to the wasteful practice of running tap water to cool it for drinking.

**14. If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing**

If you have two sinks, fill one with rinse water. If you have only one sink, first gather all your washed dishes in a dish rack, then rinse them quickly with a spray device or a pan of water.

**15. Check faucets and pipes for leaks**

Leaks waste water 24 hours a day, seven days a week. An inexpensive washer is usually enough to stop them.

**16. Tell your children not to play with the hose and sprinklers**

Children love to play under a hose or sprinkler on a hot day. Unfortunately, this practice is extremely wasteful of precious water and should be discouraged.

**17. Check for leaks in pipes, hoses faucets and couplings**

Leaks outside the house are easier to ignore since they don't mess up the floor or keep you awake at night. However, they can be even more wasteful than inside water leaks especially when they occur on your main water line.

Here are links to water conservation:

<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/drought>

<https://coloradowaterwise.org/>

<https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/45-ways-to- conserve-water-in-the-home-and-yard/>

<http://www.cmwa.us/>