



TOWN OF GOLDSBY, OK

Water Emergency Update

July 3, 2024

The Town of Goldsby is in a critical water emergency. The West Tower of our water system is being completely emptied on a daily basis and there is no relief for it to catch back up at the rate of usage. With our current situation, residents are being denied the ability to shower in the morning.

The West Tower has a capacity of 300,000 gallons and it is being depleted daily.

Here are some facts and statistics on how much water that is actually used.

- Each American uses an average of **82 gallons of water a day at home** (USGS, Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015).
- As much as **50 percent of the water we use outdoors is lost due to wind**, evaporation, and runoff caused by inefficient irrigation methods and systems. A household with an automatic landscape irrigation system that isn't properly maintained and operated can waste up to 25,000 gallons of water annually.
- A shower only uses 10 to 25 gallons, while a **bath takes up to 70 gallons**
- Fixing a toilet leak is a great way to reduce household water use and boost water conservation. If your toilet has a leak, you could be wasting about 200 gallons of water every day. That would be like flushing your toilet more than 50 times for no reason
- A **hose can waste 6 gallons per minute** if you leave it running
- Irrigation Calculation:
 - The average system uses approximately 15-16 gallons per minute, per station. Here is an easy formula to help you calculate the approximate amount of water you are using each month.
 - If your system has six zones, you water two times per week and each zone is set to run for 15 minutes, you take the number of minutes and multiple it times the number of zones. This will give you the total minutes.
 - Total minutes times 16 gallons per minute equals total gallons used per watering day.
 - **Therefore, 15 minutes x 6 zones = 90 total minutes. 90 total minutes x 16 gallons per minute = 1,920 total gallons used per watering day.**

We have determined that Irrigation is the main culprit of draining the West Tower. There have been other minor usage demands that we have addressed. There is currently no authorized filling from hydrants for commercial use off the West Tower. We are tirelessly working on solutions but, as we are a team, there are some things that you can do to help the situation.

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- Make a conscious decision to not water your grass. Sprinkler systems can be completely turned off during this emergency. Even though we are able to water on odd/even days at this time, to prevent town from having to ban all outside water usage, please think about forgoing personal irrigation.
 - Turf grasses, such as Bermuda grass, have good drought resistant and are resilient. Although the grass may go dormant and turn brown during hot and dry periods, the crown or base of the plant will stay alive. Once the grass receives natural rainfall in the late summer or fall, it will actively grow and turn green again. A few key irrigation events may be needed, but watering deeply once a week to once every two weeks can be enough to enable the grass to green up once rainfall returns. If you do insist on outdoor irrigation, you **MUST** do it in a conservative manner.
 - ✦ Consider only watering half of your zones.
 - ✦ Consider decreasing the time watering to 15 min.
 - ✦ Consider doing an irrigation audit to see how much water your system is actually using.

- <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/simple-irrigation-audit-for-home-lawns-in-oklahoma.html> • Practice water conservation in the kitchen and bathroom.

- Use your automatic dishwasher and automatic washing machine only for full loads.
- If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running continuously for rinsing. Fill one side of the sink with clean water for rinsing, or put the washed dishes in a rack and rinse them all at once with a spray attachment or a pan of hot water.
- Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Fill the sink or a pan with clean water to rinse. Re-use the water that vegetables are washed in for watering houseplants or for cleaning.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running the tap to cool the water for drinking is wasteful and the refrigerator water will be colder and more refreshing.
- Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Even a small leak can waste thousands of gallons in a month.
- Reduce use of the garbage disposal, which requires a great deal of water for operation. Dispose of food scraps and peelings in the trash container or use food waste in a garden compost pile.
- Install flow restrictors in faucets. • Keep faucet washers in good shape or use washerless faucets
- <https://www.deq.ok.gov/asd/drought-and-water-conservation-information/>

If you do have an issue or would like to report a violation of the current emergency declaration, please send an email to info@townofgoldsbys.com or call Town Hall at 405-288-6675.

100 E. Center Rd., Goldsby, OK 73093

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