

CITY OF PEABODY

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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Treatment Plant Fire Results in Voluntary Water Restrictions

For Immediate Release
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Due to the fire at the Coolidge Avenue Water Treatment Plant, and based on a recommendation by the Department of Environmental Protection, Mayor Bettencourt has declared a water emergency for the City of Peabody effective Wednesday, July 5, 2017.

Since the fire rendered the treatment plant inoperable, the City has had to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to purchase water from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority, the MWRA. Water purchased from the MWRA is priced at a significantly higher rate than locally treated water. Mayor Bettencourt said he hopes to have the plant back online by this fall. However, he noted that the fire damage was extensive and that the fall timeframe could prove optimistic.

The initial water emergency measure consists of a Phase 1 – Voluntary Water Restriction Request – to go into effect on Wednesday, July 5th. Residents are asked to conserve water by only watering their lawns every other day as follows:

- Via sprinklers or by hose (both in-ground and above-ground systems).
- Odd # houses – Monday, Wednesday, and Friday ONLY 6 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 6 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Even # houses Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday ONLY 6 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Cars should only be washed during scheduled watering times
- Please no Sunday watering

Residential water billing is based on usage. By helping to conserve water during the city's water emergency, residents can also help lower their costs.

For more information on the water emergency and voluntary water restrictions, please visit the city's official website, www.peabody-ma.gov.

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