Dealing with low supply or distribution system issues

From time to time, water utilities in Kansas struggle to keep up with the demands for water. And during periods of extended drought, some systems may not be able to provide enough water for all demands. Factors that contribute to this inability range from pumps malfunctioning to inadequate pipeline size in the distribution system.

For example, during the summer drought of 2012, many utilities that have Water Conservation Plans have issued one or more of the following restrictions.

**Stage 1 Water Watch** – This is a voluntary water use restriction. Utilities can advise their customers on some of the items to reduce water usage. These may include:

- Avoid washing cars
- Reduce the amount of water in swimming pools
- Clean driveways with a broom instead of washing with water
- Shut off water fountains
- Water lawns and gardens in the evening or early morning to avoid excessive evaporation
- Mulch around trees and plants to help maintain moisture
- Repair leaking plumbing fixtures and hoses
- Take shorter showers
- Run dishwashers and clothes washers with full loads only

**Stage 2 – Water Warning** – This stage incorporates mandatory restrictions.

- An odd/even lawn watering system will be imposed on system users; residents with odd-numbered addresses will water on odd days; even addresses will water on even days
- Outdoor water use, including lawn watering and car washing, will be restricted to before 10:00 am and after 9:00 pm,
- Golf courses will restrict watering of tees and greens until after sunset
- Refilling of swimming pools will be allowed one day a week after sunset
- Outdoor watering will be restricted to use of a hand-held hose or bucket
- Waste of water will be prohibited

**Stage 3 – Water Emergency** – This stage is for mandatory restrictions due to low supply, water quality issues, or emergency repairs:

- Outdoor water use will be banned
- Waste of water will be prohibited