



ARCATA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

631 NINTH STREET, ARCATA, CA 95521-6204
(707) 825-2000 Fax: (707) 822-7951

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARCATA FIRE'S VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION OF WATER

ARCATA, CA- (January 31, 2014)- On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a "Drought State of Emergency" as California faces the driest year in recorded state history. The snow pack is reported to be only 20% of normal and our local lakes are far below their usual levels. Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District reports that the level of Ruth Lake, headwaters of the Mad River and primary source of water for our communities, is currently at 55%. Normally, the reservoir is at 90% this time of year.



The lack of rainfall and unusual dry weather has also kept the vegetation in our area at critically dry levels. Dry conditions mean that combustible materials, such as grass and brush, can light easily and burn faster. Please call 9-1-1 if you see any suspicious activity or see a fire.



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Arcata Fire Protection District realizes the effects of this drought can potentially be devastating and is voluntarily reducing water usage within the operations of the district by doing the following:

1. Shutting off the sprinkler systems for the station lawns and not watering any other landscapes
2. Eliminating washing of hard surfaces such as apparatus bays, ramps, and sidewalks – they are being swept instead.
3. Engine washing is restricted to only those times when it is absolutely necessary and is only allowed with a hand-held container or a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle for quick rinses
4. Hydrant flows will only be conducted upon request in coordination with the water purveyor
5. Fire suppression training using water is restricted to avoid unnecessary use
6. All staff is limiting or eliminating non-essential water use.

These restrictions for the operations of the Arcata Fire Protection District will remain in effect until the State of Emergency declared by Governor Brown is lifted. Arcata Fire's mission is to protect the lives, environment, and property of the communities we serve.

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For more information about the Arcata Fire Protection District visit www.arcatafire.org or follow us on  www.Facebook.com/ArcataFire