



Infrastructure Awareness During Threat of Wildfire

- High water demand creates major stresses on our water system infrastructure.
- When pumps and other components of the system are running for longer periods, it creates high heat and an greater likelihood of breakdown/failures. This downtime equates to an inability to keep up with demand, and an increase in risk for fire suppression.
- This put strain on operations staff and limits their ability to address any other maintenance needs, which compounds the risks.
- We must maintain fire flows at a minimum of 70%. For the past two weeks the District water system reserves have dipped very close to this minimum level. If conservation efforts are not successful or pumps fail from overuse, *firefighters may not have enough water to adequately suppress a fire within town limits*, regardless of the availability of water sources that feed into the system.
- Seton River has experienced periods of high turbidity which limits the amount of water that can be treated by the system. Over the last 6 months, the District has been working on two projects to address these issues: Addressing the Seton intake via a needs assessment; Engaging with engineers to implement Town Creek and Dickey Creek as permanent supplementary sources as noted in the District's Strategic Objectives. However, staff are still working towards completion so these solutions are not yet available to us.
- If fire flows become inadequate, the Water Emergency Response Plan will be activated and Town Creek will be put online. If fire flow levels continue to drop, Dickey Creek will be put online. Unfortunately, this would necessitate water quality advisories and potential boil orders which constitute a serious health hazard to the community. We would then be dealing with two hazards simultaneously.
- Yes, your lawn may turn brown. However, by keeping your lawn short (3-5 inches) and removing dead branches from trees and bushes, it reduces the risk of property damage due to fire.
- As we have learned from the Lytton tragedy, the need for water suppression can quickly become crucial. The District must be prepared for any threat of fire. Our community's safety is our top priority.

During these unpredictable times it is very important that community members follow all bylaws and guidelines as this is the best way to keep our community safe.