



Lafayette Utilities System  
P.O. Box 4017-C, Lafayette, LA 70502  
www.lus.org

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Annual Water Conservation Ordinance Now In Effect**

**Lafayette, LA (May 2, 2011)** – In 2001, the Lafayette City-Parish Council adopted a water conservation ordinance aimed at combating low water pressure during peak hours (late afternoon and evening). The ordinance applies only to automated watering systems and sprinklers, not hand-held hose watering. The enforcement of the ordinance is May 1 through September 30 of each year. All customers using water from Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) must comply, including wholesale users (Youngsville, Broussard, Milton, Scott, Water District North and Water District South).

With the hottest months of the year approaching, the water conservation ordinance is designed to help the system maintain pressure levels needed to fight fires and ensure the safety of our community. Low water pressure is caused by competition for water during peak times, such as when customers simultaneously try to use large amounts of water for automated lawn watering along with typical consumption. By simply rescheduling lawn watering, customers help to protect our water supply as well as prevent a threat to firefighting efforts in our community.




“We believe that the community will be part of the solution by rescheduling their lawn watering times and refrain from automated watering during peak usage times,” says Terry Huval, LUS Director.

“LUS has an adequate water supply and sufficient treatment capacity, but we want to also ensure that we maintain proper pressure levels,” says Craig Gautreaux, LUS Water and Wastewater Operations Manager. “Landscaping and gardening professionals assure us that a healthy lawn needs only one inch of water a week, so we feel that the watering schedule should not have a negative effect on anyone’s lawn maintenance.” Watering violations should be reported to LUS by calling (337) 291-5740. For more information about the water conservation ordinance, visit [www.lus.org/WaterConservation](http://www.lus.org/WaterConservation).

#### ***Water Conservation Ordinance: Key Elements***

<b>Why an ordinance?</b>	To combat low water pressure during peak hours (late afternoons and evenings) due to increased lawn watering in order to provide adequate pressure for customer consumption, firefighting efforts, and public health.
<b>What is regulated?</b>	Automated watering systems and sprinklers, not hand-held hose watering.
<b>What is the enforcement period?</b>	Annual enforcement is from May 1 through September 30.
<b>Who must comply?</b>	LUS residential, commercial, and wholesale (Youngsville, Broussard, Milton, Scott, Water District North and Water District South) water customers.

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<p><b>What is the schedule for automated watering systems and sprinklers?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Customers with odd-numbered addresses (ending with 1, 3, 5, 7, 9) water only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.</li> <li>Customers with even-numbered addresses (ending with 0, 2, 4, 6, 8) water only on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.</li> <li>No automated watering is permitted on Mondays, except as provided in the exceptions list below.</li> </ul> <table border="1" data-bbox="802 233 1446 415"> <tr> <td><b>DAY</b></td> <td><b>SUN</b></td> <td><b>MON</b></td> <td><b>TUE</b></td> <td><b>WED</b></td> <td><b>THU</b></td> <td><b>FRI</b></td> <td><b>SAT</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>ADDRESS</b></td> <td>even</td> <td></td> <td>odd</td> <td>even</td> <td>odd</td> <td>even</td> <td>odd</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="8"><b>water between hours of midnight and 2:00 pm.</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>TUE</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THU</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	even		odd	even	odd	even	odd	<b>water between hours of midnight and 2:00 pm.</b>							
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<p><b>What time can automated watering systems and sprinklers be used?</b></p>	<p>Midnight to 2 p.m. (for a total of 14 hours of watering per day).</p>																								
<p><b>Are there exceptions to the schedule?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand-watering (the hose must be actually held by hand for exemption) can be done at any time on any day.</li> <li>Watering of newly planted sod, landscaping and ground cover (property owner must notify LUS at 291-5743 to qualify, initial 30-day exemption, daily watering during the designated time of midnight to 2 p.m. ONLY).</li> <li>Businesses that require water to operate (such as plant nurseries and commercial car washes) are exempt.</li> <li>Customers using a water supply other than LUS (such as private wells or ponds) are exempt.</li> </ul>																								
<p><b>What if I see a violation?</b></p>	<p>Report violations to LUS at 291-5740.</p>																								
<p><b>What are the penalties?</b></p>	<p>If a customer does not adhere to the ordinance then penalties do apply. All offenses stay on the customer's record for three years and fines are cumulative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Offense - written warning</li> <li>Second Offense - \$50 fine</li> <li>Third Offense - \$100 fine and publication of name in a legal journal</li> <li>Fourth Offense - \$200 fine and publication of name in a legal journal</li> <li>Fifth Offense - \$500 fine and publication of name in a legal journal</li> </ul>																								

As a publicly-owned utility, LUS provides electric, water and wastewater services to the City of Lafayette and portions of the surrounding areas. For additional information about LUS, visit [www.LUS.org](http://www.LUS.org).

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