

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Drought Press Release**

**MERRIMACK, NH – (September 23, 2016)** - On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Town of Merrimack and Merrimack Village District (MVD) personnel participated in a state-wide phone conference with state officials to discuss the drought emergency across the state. During this conference the State of New Hampshire recommended increased water conservation measures. In support of this recommendation, the Town and the MVD encourage all residents, businesses and industries to use personal water conservation measures.

In addition, the MVD will be instituting further restrictions on outside watering beginning Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, from twice daily to ONCE daily, 5:00-8:00pm ONLY, odd/even days. All Town properties and facilities will abide by these restrictions and recommendations.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has developed a link for drought information at:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/drought/index.htm>

Residents are also alerted that continued drought conditions may create supply shortage concerns for winter water availability, especially for users of private wells. The Town of Merrimack and the MVD are strongly encouraging all private well owners to also limit their external watering uses. Private well owners need to be aware that if the drought continues, their well levels may be limited and may create a concern as the winter progresses. We also strongly encourage all businesses and industries to establish water conservation efforts in order to assist the community in meeting their water needs through the winter.

This notice, as well as the NHDES “Drought Emergency in New Hampshire Recommended Measures for New Hampshire Residents” and “2016 Drought Guidance for Homeowners on Private Wells” documents will be placed on the Town of Merrimack (<http://www.merrimacknh.gov>) and Merrimack Village District (<http://www.mvdwater.org>) websites. Updates will be posted as they become available.

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