



# Aqua Facts

March 2009

## In This Issue...

- ♣ **New Water Restrictions Triggers (p.1)**
- ♣ **Fix A Leak Week! (p.2)**
- ♣ **Irrigation Checkups (p.2)**

## Helpful Numbers:

### Main Number:

(210) 354-6500

### Customer Service:

(210) 922-1221

8am to 7pm weekdays

### Emergency Services:

(210) 922-2141

### BexarMet Website:

[www.bexarmet.org](http://www.bexarmet.org)

### Report Water Waste:

[www.bexarmet.org/waterwaste](http://www.bexarmet.org/waterwaste)

## New Water Restrictions Triggers Adopted by Board of Directors

On February 5, 2009, the San Antonio City Council approved changes to the water restrictions triggers in the Water Conservation Ordinance. On February 23, 2009, the BexarMet Board amended the District's water conservation rules to make sure we remain on par with all local regulations. More than sixty (60%) percent of BexarMet customers reside within the city limits or extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and are effected by this change. What does this mean for you?

	<u>New J-17 Trigger</u>	<u>Old J-17 Trigger</u>
Stage 1	660 feet	650 feet
Stage 2	650 feet	640 feet
Stage 3	640 feet	630 feet

## Need a Speaker?

BexarMet offers educational presentations on efficient water use, rebate programs and other water-related topics for your school or neighborhood association. Contact the BexarMet Water Efficiency Department at (210) 357-5705.

## Spring Forward!

*Don't forget to reset your irrigation system clocks along with the clocks in your home!*

## Board Meeting

Monday, March 23, 2009\*  
Time: 4pm Exec, 6pm Open

\*Subject to change. Please check BexarMet website or call 210-354-6503 for more information.

This means that Stage 1 restrictions would begin at 660 feet instead of 650 feet on the Edwards Aquifer J-17 monitor well.

The restrictions set forth by the EAA lead to significant water savings and reduction of peak demand during drought and all BexarMet customers are subject to these rules regardless of water source.

### **The remaining year-round water restrictions are the same:**

- Watering with hose-end or automatic sprinklers is not allowed between 10am and 8pm daily.
- Water waste, including gutter flooding, unrepaired leaks, overwatering, washing sidewalks and driveways, is always prohibited.
- Watering with a hand-held hose, soaker hose or bucket is allowed any time on any day.

For information on water restrictions or BexarMet water conservation rules, check out the BexarMet website at [www.bexarmet.org/watereff](http://www.bexarmet.org/watereff) or call the Water Efficiency Office at (210) 357-5705.

If/when restrictions are enacted, BexarMet will join other water purveyors and make an announcement in the media as well as place information on the BexarMet website.



# Fix a Leak Week

March 16-20, 2009

March 16-20, 2009 marks the first-ever national "Fix A Leak" week. The EPA WaterSense program encourages homeowners to take a closer look around their homes and check to make sure leaks aren't stealing money from their checkbooks. Repairing leaks around your home can save as much as 10% of your monthly water bill!

Common types of leaks found in the home include leaking toilet flappers and faucets, or other leaking valves. These types of leaks are easily correctable, in many cases requiring only a few tools and hardware, such as a wrench and drops of food coloring, which will easily pay for themselves in water savings. If you discover a significant leak that merits the replacement of an older toilet or bathroom sink faucet, consider a new WaterSense labeled product that will not only put an end to your leak, but also increase water efficiency. For instance, WaterSense labeled faucets use 30 percent less water without a noticeable difference in flow.

If your home was constructed prior to 1992, you might be eligible for a free toilet or toilet rebate from BexarMet. If your home meets the age requirement and you have never received a rebate from BexarMet for purchasing a water-efficient toilet, you can apply for a free toilet through the BexarMet Switch and Save Free Toilet Program. You may be eligible for up to two free toilets, depending on the number of bathrooms in the home. If you have replaced toilets in a pre-1992 home within the past 12 months, have not received a rebate from BexarMet and still have the receipt, you can apply for a Switch and Save Toilet rebate as well. Both the toilet rebate application and free toilet program application are available online by going to [www.bexarmet.org/switchandsave](http://www.bexarmet.org/switchandsave). You may also contact customer service for an application.

***NOTE: All applications received for free toilets are being processed through a waiting list. Vouchers for free toilets will be distributed by mail beginning after May 1, 2009.***

---

## Is Your Irrigation System Ready for Summer????

Irrigation systems are the ultimate in convenience when it comes to landscape care. Unfortunately, they also represent a tremendous source of water waste. A properly functioning and adjusted sprinkler system reduces water waste while providing the correct amount of water for your landscape.

The BexarMet Water Efficiency Department offers irrigation checkups at no charge to BexarMet residential customers.

### **What happens during an irrigation checkup?**

- The BexarMet technician records the settings on your system controller, including the zone runtimes, number of days per week set to run and the start time for the program. The technician will also record your meter reading prior to beginning the test.
- Your system will be tested for approximately two minutes per zone to look for proper head alignment and coverage while also noting any broken or leaking heads, leaking PVC zone lines, or malfunctioning valves and flag these for attention.
- Once the test is complete, the technician will record the meter reading again and calculate a gallons per minute (gpm) consumption for your system, including an estimate of how much water your irrigation system uses when it runs once based on the controller settings.
- If necessary, the technician will provide recommendations of zone settings based on soil depth, grass type, amount of shade and sprinkler head type.
- A check up will also provide the proper settings during restrictions and outside of restrictions.
- Once the checkup is complete you will be provided a copy of the report to keep for reference.

If you are interested in this free service, contact BexarMet Customer Service at (210) 922-1221 or the Water Efficiency Department at (210) 357-5705 to schedule your irrigation system checkup.

***NOTE: BexarMet technicians are not licensed to make any irrigation system repairs, but may make minor directional or flow adjustments to sprinkler heads during the test.***