



EPCOR FRENCH CREEK NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019



Watering Restrictions

On **June 13, 2019**, French Creek moved to Stage 3 Water Restrictions. The extremely dry conditions we have experienced these past few summers have highlighted the importance of careful water conservation. Responsible outdoor water use is crucial in ensuring our water supply is available for everyone.

Stage 3 Watering Restrictions call for further reductions on top of **Stage 2** Restrictions. Here are some suggestions:

- Reduce lawn irrigation on your property by decreasing sprinkler run times, cutting back on the number of watering days and refraining from sprinkling certain lawn areas. Lawns naturally go dormant in the summer months and return with fall rains.
- Avoid washing vehicles or boats unnecessarily, unless for safety reasons.
- Sweep outdoor surfaces with a broom rather than using a hose or power washer.
- Retrofit old, inefficient irrigation systems.
- Add mulch/topsoil to aid in landscape water retention to support decreased sprinkling.

Once we receive notice that **Stage 3** is no longer needed, **Stage 2** Watering Restrictions will still be in effect for the remainder of the summer:

- Even numbered homes can water on even dates (e.g. 4th, 6th, 18th, etc.).
- Odd numbered homes can water on odd dates (e.g. 3rd, 5th, 21st, etc.).
- Be sure to water only between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. or between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. for a maximum of two hours.

Did you know?
The average person in French Creek uses 340 litres of water/day. That's the same as using 84 4L milk jugs each day.



Keeping your drinking water safe

EPCOR's top priorities are to provide safe, quality water and to protect local watersheds. How do we do that for the French Creek community?

EPCOR's water operations in French Creek must meet standards set by government agencies and regulators. We work with the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), Regional District of Nanaimo, the BC Comptroller of Water Rights, neighbouring communities and industry to ensure your drinking water is clean and safe.

French Creek's source of water is from 16 groundwater wells. While naturally-occurring minerals from this source can result in variations in odour and taste, the water is safe to drink.

In fact, French Creek's drinking water meets or exceeds the standards set by Health Canada's Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water. EPCOR performs 5,000 water quality tests each year on both the raw water supply and the treated water, ensuring it continues to be safe and meets these federal guidelines. You can view these annual reports by visiting epcor.com.

Who owns the water in French Creek?

EPCOR is proud to operate, maintain and own the infrastructure in French Creek that helps us treat and deliver water to your home. This includes the wells, pipes, hydrants, pump house and water treatment plant that make up our network.



Since EPCOR began running the facility in 2006, we have made significant improvements in the area of quality assurance. This includes the construction of the Drew Road Water Treatment Plant, continued maintenance programs (e.g. installation of new hydrants, annual program to replace and/or upgrade water meters, etc.) and increased water quality monitoring.

The water source in French Creek—groundwater—is owned by the Crown on behalf of the residents of British Columbia. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy works together with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Ministry of Health and other provincial agencies to manage and protect water in B.C.

Through the province's *Water Protection Act*, EPCOR is registered and approved to remove groundwater to produce safe drinking water for citizens. In addition, EPCOR adheres to the provincial government's *Water Sustainability Act*, which is designed to protect B.C.'s water supply and regulates groundwater use.

Because the health of our water supply affects us today and tomorrow, EPCOR is committed to protecting the environment and ensuring future generations have access to clean, safe water.

Contact Us

EPCOR's office is open Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. We are closed from 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The office will be closed for the following holidays: August 5 and September 2, 2019.

Phone: 250-951-2460 Fax: 250-954-0361
 Emergency Phone: 250-954-5337
 Email: frenchcreek@epcor.com
 #10D, 1343 Alberni Hwy
 Parksville, B.C. V9P 2B9
epcor.com

EPCOR
 FRENCH
 CREEK