

MEDIA NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9 AM August 6, 2014



STAGE 5 WATER RESTRICTIONS LIFTED AT NOON TODAY

STAGE 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

"Thanks to the cooperation of our citizens, the help of media, great employees and local contractors, we have restored normal water service to the City of Graham and our customers," Jack Graham, Mayor City of Graham.

Graham added, "This was a very serious situation. With reduced available raw water due to pump failures, we had to conserve available water in case of a fire or other emergency. The citizen response to our call to conserve was tremendous. I am thankful everyone pulled together in this crisis."

Stage 5 restrictions will be lifted at noon today. Stage 3 restrictions will remain in effect due to the drought. Lake Graham remains at less than 45 % of capacity.

Stage 3 restrictions include lawn watering restricted to once per week. Odd addresses can water on Wednesdays and even addresses on Thursdays. No watering is allowed between 10 am and 7 pm.

No further updates are planned at this time.

Additional Information:

At 2:30 am on August 5, a fire erupted in the raw water intake structure at Lake Eddleman. This is where water is taken out of the lake and pumped to the water plant for treatment and distribution to customers.

The fire consumed the electrical system and the starter units at the pump house. There are two pumps. One is powered by a 200 hp motor and one is powered by a 75 hp motor.

Intermittent service was restored to the smaller 75 hp unit by mid-morning. Supplies of raw water with the smaller unit were less than 50% of what is normally needed on a summer weekday.

Stage 5 emergency restrictions were enacted during the early morning and through the event to conserve the water we had available in storage tanks to fight fires and service basic needs.

The 200 hp pump was manufactured in 1947. Parts were not readily available. A local contractor manufactured parts from various other available components to get the larger pump operational.

Both pumps became operational towards nightfall.

Through the night and into the morning tanks were refilled. Adequate capacity to fight fires was maintained throughout the emergency.

J and J Electric Company, Oncor and Luminent and others were instrumental in restoring operations.

KSWA-KWKQ, the Graham Leader, the Chamber of Commerce, the Cities of Throckmorton, Newcastle and Bryson and many citizens on social media played an important role in conserving the water we had available during the emergency.

Special thanks is given to Rick Edwards at KWKQ 94.7 for his extra effort in getting the word out through his show and social media sites.

Jerry Bewley from J and J Electric and Mark Morrison from Oncor are also commended for their responsiveness and ingenuity.

The City of Graham awarded a \$9.8 million bond funded contract to Gracon Construction recently to reconstruct the water plant. This contract includes replacing the ancient pumps and electrical system that failed in this emergency. Gracon begins work next week.