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NEWS RELEASE

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The Black Mountain Irrigation District is reminding all of our customers to be mindful of their water use. With historically high temperatures and very little precipitation this spring, our watersheds are in a state of very high forest fire risk. All activities and recreation in the back country should be curtailed until we see significant precipitation in the region. The Kamloops Forest Service has our watershed fire risk rated as “Very High” and approaching “Extreme”.

The hot weather is also driving up water consumption. The little things that everyone can do during this time of heat will help to lessen the stress on our water system. As domestic customers, water only what is absolutely necessary. Let your car get dirty, leave your grass long and don't cut it, as it will not grow much in this heat and it is okay for it to be stressed through this period of time. The lawns will recover.

For our irrigation customers, this is a period when the crops may demand more water. The allocation BMID provides should be followed in terms of the flow rate per acre for your parcel. Check your sprinklers, nozzles and flow rates to make sure you are within your allocation. BMID bailiffs will be around to check on conformance. There is no immediate sign of cooler temperatures or precipitation in the forecast, and the summer season is just starting. We may have a long, hot, dry summer so all irrigation properties should follow the regulations so that we, as a community, are prepared.

For our domestic customers, a reminder of the odd-numbered addresses to sprinkle on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and even numbered addresses on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. No watering is allowed on Mondays. We remind you that automatic sprinklers are to run between midnight and 6:00 am. Manual sprinklers can be used between 6:00 and 10:00 am and again between 7:00 pm and midnight.

Our upland storage is now being released with the gates opened this year from our Belgo Dam two weeks earlier than normal. Similar to the City of Kelowna water utility notification yesterday, BMID has not issued drought stage restrictions yet and will continue to monitor our water consumption and storage levels.

Summer is just starting so we reiterate, please be extra careful with your water use during this time of unprecedented hot weather.

BLACK MOUNTAIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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Administrator