



EMPIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT

30 East Park Avenue
P.O. Box 100
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PRESS RELEASE

John W. Stein
Chief

March 20, 2022

EMPIRE, Colo. -

The Town's Water Treatment System continues to not be able to produce enough water to meet system demands. Currently the water flow on Madd Creek, the current water source, is too low. Compounding the issue is a suspected water leak that the Town is continuing to work to locate. This morning, some residents and businesses are reporting no water and/or low pressure. While this is an extraordinary inconvenience, it is not a threat to public safety and temporary while additional measures are being implemented.

Currently the town is working to increase the water intake at Madd Creek and supplement water into the UV Water Filtration plant. Tomorrow, the Town is expecting delivery of new filtration tanks to filter the previously shuttered well that exceeded CDPHE heavy metal levels (zinc, magnesium, etc.). Once delivered, the new filters will need to be installed over the next week. Then water quality will be checked prior to activation. Once activated, the water will begin to fill the town water tanks and supply.

Emergency services in the county are assisting the Town. Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management are providing 5-gallon buckets to the Town. To improve fire protection, in addition to the current 1,000 gallon tanker, the C.C.C. Fire Authority has moved a 2,000 gallon tanker into the Empire Fire Station.

Over the past years, the Town has been working to improve our system and obtain multiple water sources that will offset variables of water demand, drought, and water flow. A new well is still on schedule to operate later this year. The town previously purchased additional water storage rights at Guanella Reservoir. The new filtration system arriving tomorrow is expected to allow for reactivation of the current water well.

Currently a water tanker is available for residents to fill containers. The tanker is parked at Theobold Park, 52 E. Park Ave. (HWY 40). The Town has limited 5-gallon buckets available but requests residents with other containers bring them to assist in equitable water availability being dispersed to all neighbors. Additional bottles of drinking water and gallon jugs are available in limited quantities to assist in conserving water drawn from the treatment system.

This water emergency only affects the residents and businesses inside the Town of Empire. Water is available at Theobold Park and Town Hall today, Sunday until - 5 PM, continuing during business hours on Monday and thereafter as needed. Please do not call 911 unless you have an emergency. Non-emergent questions / comments, please contact Chief John Stein via cell # 303-257-1422 or Town Hall at 303-569-2978.

Wendy Koch, Mayor and John W. Stein, Chief of Police & Emergency Manager