

## Boone water classification clarified

Written by  
Friday, 26 October 2007 06:19

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Statements from the Drought Management Advisory Council made earlier this week classified Boone among seventeen water systems with less than 100 days supply.

Public utilities director Rick Miller has been in touch with state officials and says it's not what you think.

"It's not saying we don't have over a hundred days of water, it's saying circumstances are in place where we can't verify to them that we do," Miller says.

In the state's newly instated tier system, Boone is listed in tier one, which does include cities at crisis levels. Boone has a surface water facility and takes part of its supply from rivers and streams. When water levels change in a stream, it can't be verified to the state, Miller says. Winkler's Creek, for example, has at least thirty days supply of water that is not included in the state statistics.

That technicality, coupled with the fact that Boone's system has no interconnections as backups, makes it ineligible for the second tier. If Boone were connected to ASU's water system, Miller says the classification wouldn't be a problem. Boone's water system's drainage base and size are also below standard for tier two.

Miller is still talking to state officials, but anticipates Boone will not move up from stage one water shortage conditions anytime soon.

The rain this week has recharged the system for the first time in months, he says.

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Miller urges residents to continue in their water conservation efforts.