



Town of Little Elm
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Soaker hoses can mitigate home foundation issues *Drip irrigation systems also effective against damage*

LITTLE ELM (August 14, 2015) For a homeowner, there are few things more upsetting than dealing with a shifting foundation, especially if it can be prevented, says Kevin Mattingly, Public Works Director.

“Unfortunately, the soils in the area have characteristics that make it difficult to retain moisture for long periods of time,” he said. “Consequently, the longer we see hot, dry weather, the more likely it is that we may see soils shift, affecting foundations.”

The Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service advises Little Elm homeowners to closely monitor the areas around the foundation of their homes for any cracking or separation. Should these signs appear, a soaker hose or drip irrigation system may be the best way to combat the potentially dangerous condition.

“Placing a soaker hose, available at most hardware stores, about eight inches from the foundation and running water through it will provide sufficient moisture to the foundation,” said Mattingly.

Monitoring the effects of the soaker hose or drip irrigation system is still advisable since overwatering can also create foundation problems.

“If the cracks in the soil and separation from the foundation disappear, then shutting off the system is appropriate,” he added. “A quick walk around the house every day or so will be necessary to ensure effectiveness.”

Little Elm remains in the Conservation Stage of the water conservation plan, allowing homeowners to water their lawns and landscaping twice a week. A map and schedule are available for reference on the Little Elm website, www.littleelm.org under Departments, Public Works. The allowable watering days are categorized according to trash pickup days.

Soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems are not subject to the conditions of the water conservation plan, however, care should still be taken to ensure there is no waste.

For more information on Little Elm’s water conservation plan and ways to conserve water, please visit the Public Works page on the Little Elm website.

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state’s fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm’s population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town’s footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.