



# What's On Tap?

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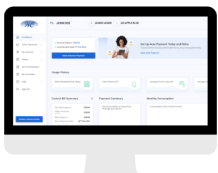
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## CONTACT US

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94WATER (949-2837)

### Emergencies:

946-HELP (4357)

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### Website:

[www.waterauthority.ky](http://www.waterauthority.ky)

### Online Account Access:

[online.waterauthority.ky](http://online.waterauthority.ky)

## 20 Years Since Hurricane Ivan

Wednesday, 11 September 2024 will mark 20 years since the passing of Hurricane Ivan. The category 5 storm caused catastrophic damage in Grand Cayman, across Caribbean countries, and the United States. Water Authority experienced \$3.6 million in damage to its infrastructure due to the storm.

The devastation caused the Cayman Islands to become a more resilient island through the establishment of the Hazard Management Cayman Islands, and the development of a National Hurricane Plan among other actions.

The storm was also a moment of learning for the Water Authority. One of the biggest lessons learned by the Authority was the importance of protecting critical assets. Prior to the impact of storm conditions the Authority made the

decision to turn off the water supply due to the forecasted weather conditions. By making this decision the Authority avoided damage to our critical equipment and had adequate stored water available for restoration efforts.

In the years following the storm the Authority developed its comprehensive Hurricane Plan, which guides the Authority's action plan in the event of a storm or emergency situation. Key areas of focus include staff safety, the protection of critical equipment, assets and stored water. It also outlines procedures and priorities related to the critical work of service restoration following a storm.

The Water Authority has also invested in its infrastructure, increasing production and storage capacity to build a more resilient network;

an effort that continues to this day. In the last year the Authority completed construction of two new reservoirs at its North Side facility and a new Reverse Osmosis Production Plant—two major capital projects you can learn more about in this edition of *What's On Tap?*.

As the country reflects on the impact of Hurricane Ivan 20 years later, the Authority encourages its customers to stay vigilant this hurricane season. Ensure your emergency kit is fully stocked with essential supplies. Customers are also highly encouraged to 'store before' a storm approaches - ensuring you have for both drinking and non-drinking purposes.

You can visit our website for helpful preparedness tips [www.waterauthority.ky](http://www.waterauthority.ky).



## Director's Message

The recent passing of Hurricane Beryl was a good reminder of the need to be prepared at any point in the hurricane. For many, it also brought back memories of Hurricane Ivan—a major storm that caused significant damage to the Cayman Islands 20 years ago. In this edition of *What's on Tap* we take a moment to reflect on the storm and how it changed the country's and the Authority's approach to hurricane preparedness.

As temperatures increase, often so does water consumption which is why we've provided some help-

ful and practical tips on how you can conserve water this summer.

The summer also marks the return of interns here at Water Authority. It's been a pleasure to welcome the latest group of students taking part in the Summer Internship Programme. This programme is a great way for students to learn more about the career opportunities available in the water and wastewater industry, and more specifically career paths available at the Authority.

— Dr. Frederick-van Genderen



# OUR COMMITMENT to you...

The Water Authority was established in 1983 as a statutory body responsible for supplying pure, wholesome and affordable drinking water to the people of the Cayman Islands. The Authority is also responsible for the proper treatment of wastewater and for the protection of the fresh groundwater lenses that exist throughout the Cayman Islands.

## KNOWLEDGE ZONE

### CONSERVE WATER THIS SUMMER

With kids at home for summer break, many households use more water. With a few changes to your habits, you can control your family's water usage and reduce your water footprint during the summer heat.

**Make a habit to monitor the usage on your water meter. To do so, carefully:**

- Remove your meter box cover.
- Record the reading (black/white numbers represent full cubic metres).
- Repeat on a regular basis to track usage.
- To calculate usage, subtract the first reading from the second reading. (E.g. Day 1 is 5.71 and Day 2 is 6.91, the usage in that period was 1.2 cubic metres.)

**Teach your family water-saving tips to avoid unnecessary high bills:**

- Ensure faucets are closed off tightly.
- Turn off water while brushing your teeth.
- Wash hands quickly.
- No unnecessary toilet flushing.
- Water your lawn before 10am.



## HR Briefs

### Appointments:

- **Cantrell (CJ) Scott**  
Applications & Network Support Specialist  
(Designate)

## Water Authority Welcome Interns

The summer season sees the return of interns here at the Water Authority. In 2024 the Authority welcomed a total of twenty-one students over the summer break.

The Authority's Summer Internship Programme enables students to gain hands-on experience working in a professional environment and introduces them to the wide variety of career opportunities available within the water and wastewater industry.

Interns were placed within a cross-section of departments and sections with the Authority, including

- Finance,
- Customer Service, Water Resources & Quality Control
- Information Systems,
- Operations, and
- Engineering.

Interns participating in the 2024 programme are: Daniella Johnson, Elizabeth Thomas, Satiah Miller,

Kayshena Powell, Deidre Edwards, Josiah Dixon, Gabrielle Nelson, Lola Powery, Isabella McGeough, Gian-na Rankin, Marco Lopez Francis, Kyan Dilbert, Ania Webster, Jonathan Ewers, Jeremiah Thompson, D'Nique Solomon, Jhana Kirchman, Melique Ebanks, Gemma General, Leah Reyes and Marlique Muir.

Applications for the Water Authority's Summer Internship Programme opens at the start of each year, with a yearly deadline of 30 April. To learn more about the programme and its requirements, and to submit an application visit [www.waterauthority.ky](http://www.waterauthority.ky).



## Creating a Resilient Network

The Water Authority has made significant infrastructure investments over the past year to further improve its operational resiliency and meet the needs of the rapid development in the Cayman islands.

Within the last year the Authority completed two major capital projects—two new reservoirs in North Side and a new Reverse Osmosis (RO) Production Plant at the Authority's headquarters on Red Gate Road.

The two glass-fused-to-steel tank reservoirs in North Side increased the Authority's water storage capacity by 6.0 million U.S. gallons. This enables the Authority to accommodate the ex-

pected growth within the water distribution system. It also ensures that the system will continue to be adequate and reliable particularly in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Both reservoirs went into service mid-2023.

The new Reverse Osmosis Production Plant came into service in April 2024, replacing an ageing plant. With the addition of the new plant, the

overall water production capacity increased by 1.3 million U.S. gallons per day.

"The Authority is pleased to have completed these major capital development projects," notes Water Authority Director, Dr Gelia Frederick-van Genderen.

"As our island grows the Authority will continue to focus on executing our comprehensive Capital Development Project. This ambitious endeavour aims to strengthen and expand the Authority's water and wastewater infrastructure, ensuring the deliver of high-quality essential services to meet the needs of the residents of the Cayman Islands" she adds.

