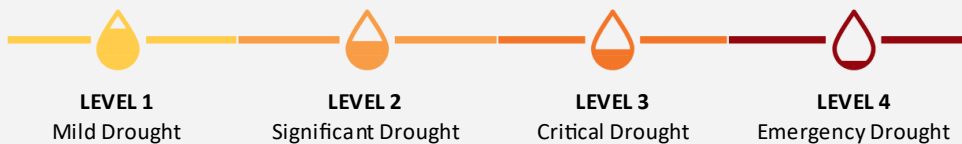


MASSACHUSETTS DROUGHT ALERT

November 21, 2024



DROUGHT STATUS

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has declared a **Level 3 – Critical Drought** for the Western, Connecticut River Valley, Central, Northeast and Southeast Regions. The Cape Cod and Islands Regions remain at **Level 0 – Normal Conditions**.

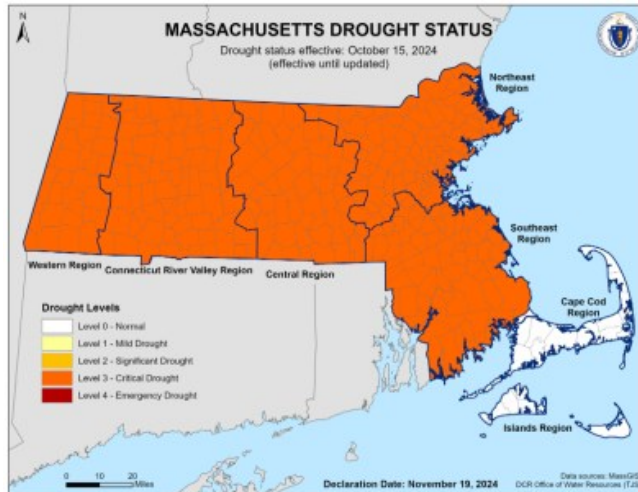
CURRENT CONDITIONS

Due to unprecedented low rainfall over the last three months, with many locations recording their lowest ever rainfall, the Commonwealth is experiencing critical drought conditions. **Since November 1st, there have been 425 wildfires across the state with 2,572 acres burned.** Smoke effects from extended drought fires have impacted local communities. Since August, all regions, except Cape and Islands, have seen a rainfall deficit of 8 to 11 inches. Streamflow has dropped significantly, resulting in dry brooks and streambeds, increased ponding, exposed beaches and sediments, and limited fish passage. Groundwater levels are declining in all regions.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

We want to hear from you! Please fill out this survey:

www.mass.gov/wir



Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs:

Rebecca L. Tepper

Director of MEMA:

Dawn Brantley



For Information on **Water Conservation** click [here!](#)

Private Well owners click [here!](#)

Residents, Facilities & Businesses (*including private wells users*)

WATER USE TIPS

- Aggressively reduce indoor water use
 - take shorter showers,
 - avoid water running while brushing/shaving, etc.)
 - Run dishwashers & washing machines only at full capacity
- Minimize overall water use
- Follow local water restrictions
- Monitor total household water use shown on water bill for sudden increases
- Fix leaks immediately

OUTDOOR FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

- Burning yard waste is prohibited
- Stop outdoor cooking/heating
- Use caution with power equipment
- Properly dispose of ashes and smoking materials

Cities & Towns

- Use [outreach materials](#) to inform users about drought/water conservation tips
- Establish a year-round water conservation program
- Enforce water use restrictions with stringent penalties
- Prepare to activate emergency inter-connections with other water suppliers
- Implement drought surcharge/seasonal water rates
- Establish/enhance water use reduction targets
- Conduct targeted outreach to top water users
- Establish a leak detection program
- Develop/refine local drought management plan for water supply
- Prohibit washing of hard surfaces, vehicles, boats

Learn more at www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management