

MASSACHUSETTS DROUGHT ALERT

November 8, 2024



LEVEL 1
Mild Drought

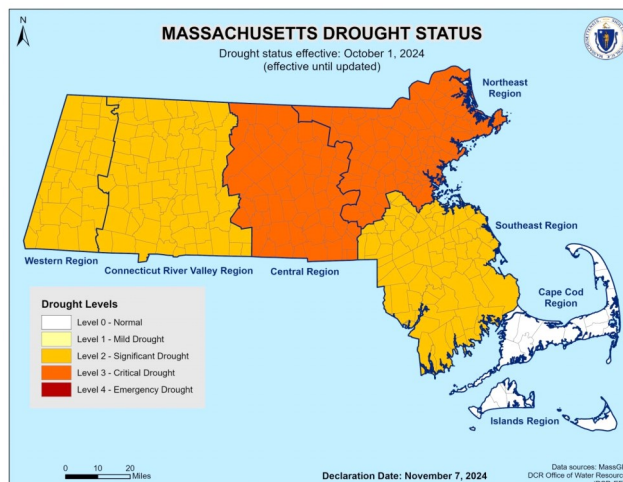
LEVEL 2
Significant Drought

LEVEL 3
Critical Drought

LEVEL 4
Emergency Drought

DROUGHT STATUS

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has declared a **Level 3 – Critical Drought** in the Central and Northeast Regions, and a **Level 2 – Significant Drought** in the Western, Connecticut River Valley, and Southeast Regions. The Cape Cod and Islands Regions remain at a **Level 0 – Normal Conditions**.



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](#)!

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Due to unprecedented low rainfall over the last two months, with many locations recording their lowest rainfall ever, the Commonwealth is experiencing significant drought conditions. Wildfires are occurring across the state (208 fires in October and 115 fires in November so far). Smoke effects from extended drought fires have impacted local communities. Since August, all regions, except Cape and Islands, have seen a rainfall deficit of 7 to 9 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

ALL DROUGHT REGIONS

Residents, Facilities & Businesses

- Minimize overall water use
- Run dishwashers & washing machines only at full capacity
- Fix leaks immediately
- Take shorter showers
- **Ban on open flame & charcoal fires at state parks**

Cities & Towns

- Use [outreach materials](#) to inform users about drought/water conservation tips and
- 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