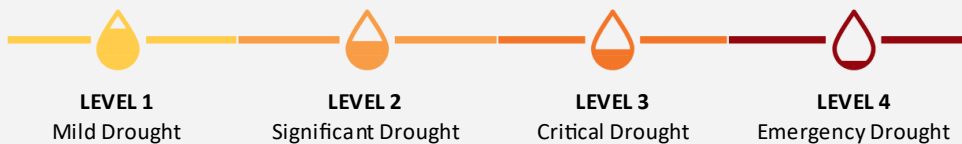


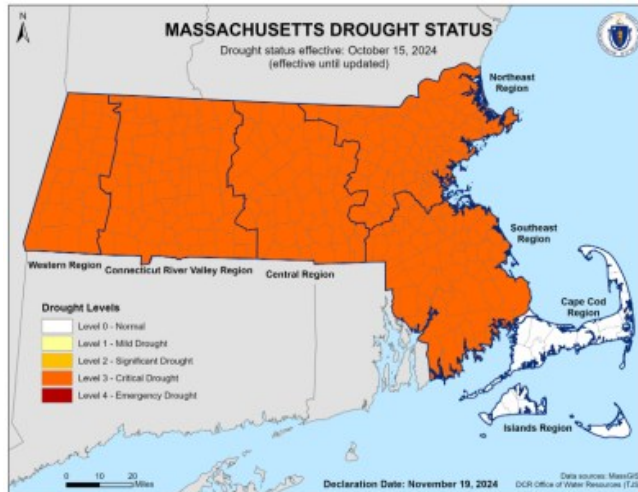
# MASSACHUSETTS DROUGHT ALERT

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**.



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 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](http://www.mass.gov/wir)

### 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](http://www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management)