



DROUGHT

Drought is a natural phenomenon characterized by a prolonged period of below-average rainfall or precipitation, leading to insufficient water availability.

Extended droughts can present significant risks to individual and family well-being, particularly regarding hydration and overall health. Awareness of drought conditions and proactive water conservation measures are crucial for mitigating potential impacts.



Know the four stages of a drought:

- **Drought Watch:** The least dangerous, declared when a drought is developing. Public water suppliers will begin to conserve water. You should try to minimize water use.
- **Drought Warning:** Public water suppliers and industries begin to update and implement their drought contingency plans in case of an emergency. You should minimize water use.
- **Drought Emergency:** A state of emergency may be declared. Mandatory water restrictions may be instituted. Alternative water sources may be tapped.
- **Drought Disaster:** A disaster may be declared and contingency plans put in place. Water is further rationed. You may receive emergency assistance.

Drought Preparedness & Response

Preparation:

- **Monitor Conditions:** Stay informed about weather patterns & prolonged periods without precipitation.
- **Prioritize Conservation:** Implement water-saving measures proactively.

Water Conservation Measures:

- **Indoors:**
 - Fix leaks promptly.
 - Install low-flow fixtures (toilets, faucets, showerheads).
 - Shorten showers & avoid running water unnecessarily.
 - Reuse water (e.g., vegetable washing water for plants).
 - Wash full laundry loads.
- **Outdoors:**
 - Turn off hose when washing cars, wash on the lawn.
 - Water lawns efficiently (every 5-7 days hot weather, 10-14 days otherwise).
 - Avoid unattended sprinklers/hoses.
 - Water during designated times.
 - Use efficient hoses & sprinklers.
 - Limit ornamental water features.
- **Community:**
 - Follow all water restrictions.
 - Encourage water conservation among neighbors.

During a Drought:

- **Track Usage:** Monitor daily water consumption.
- **Avoid Dehydration:** Conserve but prioritize adequate hydration.
- **Recycle Water:** Utilize water for multiple household uses.
- **Follow Regulations:** Adhere to all guidelines & restrictions from authorities.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/drought>
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): <https://www.epa.gov/natural-disasters/drought>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/drought/>
- American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/drought>
- Ready Army: <https://www.army.mil/ready>

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen. These fact sheets are intended to supplement predetermined plans and policies. Follow state, local, installation and command guidance related to threats and hazards.



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