



# DROUGHT

A lack of precipitation for an extended period of time can cause a drought. If droughts persist for long periods of time, they can pose a great danger to you and your family.

## *How to Prepare for a Drought*

- 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.
- Stay aware of the weather and long periods without precipitation.
- Try to conserve the amount of water you use.

All personnel should maintain a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards.

You are encouraged to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about what might happen.

## *Water Conservation*

- Conserve water indoors:
  - Check for water leaks around your home.
  - Consider installing low-flow toilets, faucets, and shower heads.
  - Take shorter showers.
  - Do not leave the water running unnecessarily. Turn the faucet off when you are brushing your teeth, shaving, or scrubbing dishes.
  - Do not waste water by waiting for it to heat up. Capture the cold water to use later or heat water on the stove.
  - Reuse water you wash vegetables in to water plants, etc.
  - Do not waste water on small laundry loads—set the washer on the proper water level.
- Conserve water outdoors:
  - When washing cars, turn the hose off instead of letting it run.
  - Wash the car on the lawn, so it gets watered simultaneously.
  - Do not overwater the lawn. It needs water only every 5–7 days in hot weather and every 10–14 days the rest of the time.
  - Never leave sprinklers and hoses unattended—don't forget to turn them off.
  - Water lawn during designated times of the day.
  - Use the most water-efficient hoses and sprinklers.
  - Avoid ornamental water features (fountains) unless they recycle water.
- Conserve water in the community:
  - Follow all water restrictions and water shortage rules.
  - Encourage neighbors to be water conscious.

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### ***What to Do If There Is a Drought***

- Stay aware of the amount of water being used each day.
- Adhere to all guidelines and restrictions imposed by local or federal authorities.
- Recycle water for household uses.
- While it is important that you are careful with the amount you consume, do not ration to the point of dehydration.

### ***Where to Find Additional Information***

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water—  
[www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/index.htm)

***Semper Paratus***

**Be “Always Ready.” Get an emergency supply kit good for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family, and be informed about what might happen.**

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