



EAST NORTHFIELD WATER COMPANY

August 23, 2022

Dear Customer,

I am reaching out regarding 2 matters:

- the current drought status in Massachusetts, and
- MassDEP's water conservation requirements that include leak detection.

You may already be aware that the state recently updated the drought status for the Connecticut River Valley Region to "Level 3 - Critical Drought". Attached is a copy of the state's Drought Status notice on their Mass.gov website.

While ENWC's reservoir level is satisfactory at the moment, there's still more than a month of summer remaining. As a precaution, I am asking that for the remainder of this summer you voluntarily discontinue outdoor water use, including sprinkling lawns and re-filling pools. Your assistance on minimizing water use would be very much appreciated.

Like last year, I am also writing to request assistance to address lost water issues. If any of the following conditions appears at your home, please call 413-498-3159 and leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible:

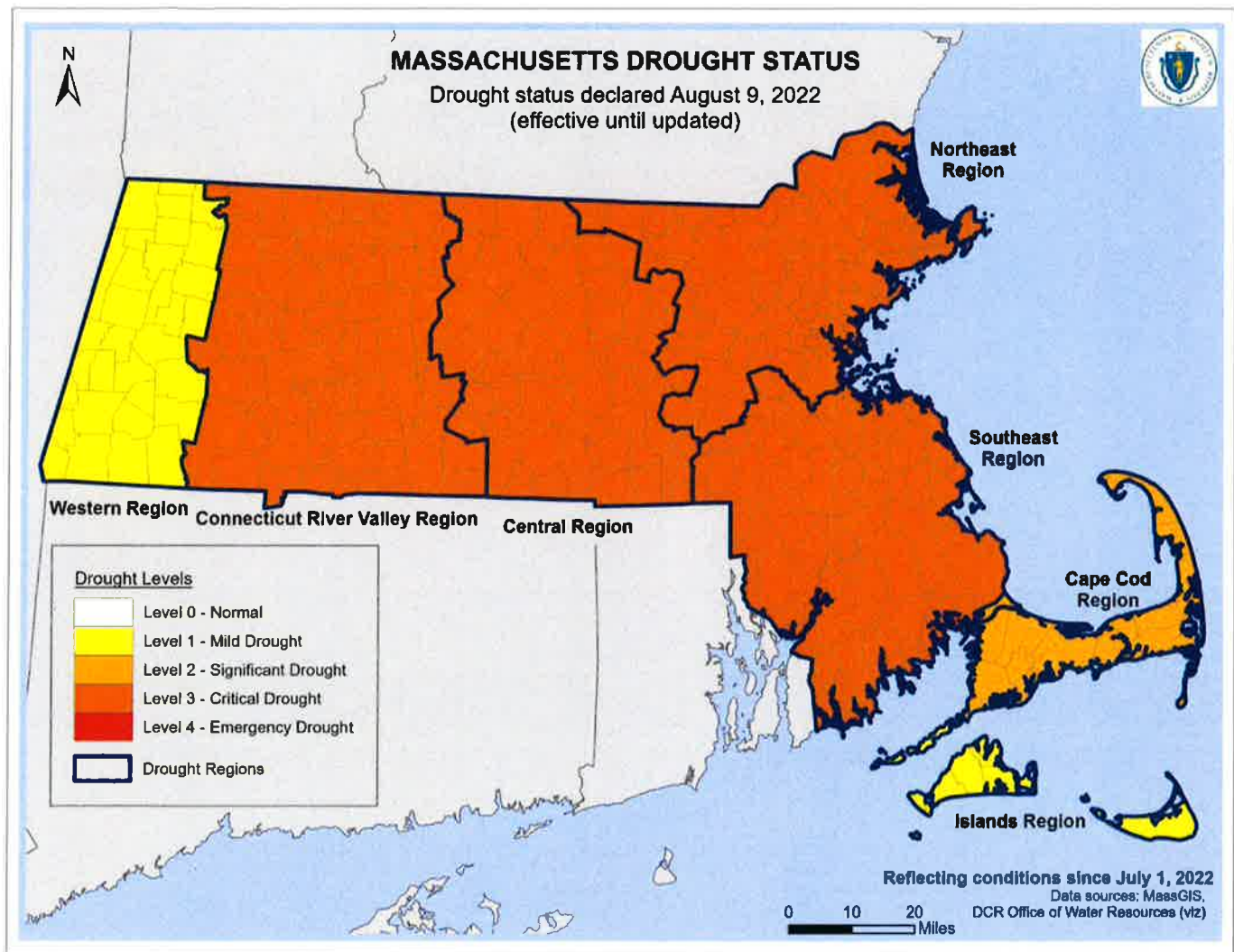
- loss of water pressure
- water bubbling and puddling at or near your home
- new and unusually soggy grass areas near your home

A collaborative effort addressing leaks will greatly help with water conservation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Glascoff, Jr.
President, ENWC



August 9, 2022: Following lower than normal rainfall for the past six months, with the month of July experiencing minimal precipitation and high temperatures, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Bethany Card today announced that conditions have deteriorated across the with the drought expanding south and westward. She has declared the Connecticut River Valley and Southeast Regions will join the Northeast and Central Regions as a Level 3-Critical Drought. The Cape Cod Region will elevate to a Level 2-Significant Drought, and the Islands and Western Regions will remain at a Level 1-Mild Drought.

To learn which drought region your city or town falls into, go to <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/drought-regions> (/service-details/drought-regions).

Outlined in the [Massachusetts Drought Management Plan](/files/documents/2019/10/03/drought-plan.pdf) (/files/documents/2019/10/03/drought-plan.pdf), a Level 1-Mild Drought warrants detailed monitoring of drought conditions, close coordination among state and federal agencies, and technical outreach and assistance to the affected municipalities, and; a Level 2-Significant Drought of higher warrants the convening of an inter-agency Mission Group to more closely coordinate on drought assessments, impacts and response within the government. The declarations were the result of recommendations made by the state's [Drought Management Task Force](/orgs/drought-management-task-force) (/orgs/drought-management-task-force), which is composed of state and federal officials, and other entities. The taskforce will continue to meet until water levels return to normal in the affected regions.

The drought is impacting the environment in many ways. The Commonwealth is experiencing decreasing levels in some reservoirs, dry streambeds, ponding, and diminished extent of streams in many watersheds leading to lack of flow, increased turbidity, higher water temperature, and increase in growth of plants and algae in the water. Groundwater, which is a slow reacting index, is starting to be impacted in many regions. Caution is also advised as fire activity has increased across the state as drought conditions have set in, and wildfires in remote areas with delayed response are now burning deep into the organic soil layers. Drought induced fire behavior can result in suppression challenges for fire resources and result in extended incidents so residents are asked to exercise caution while working with open flames, and to completely drown all campfires out cold.

As the summer continues and low precipitation couples with high temperatures, it is incredibly important that outdoor watering be limited to essential uses to reduce the strain on local water systems. Drought-like conditions can also be detrimental to delicate habitats and ecosystems, and can directly impact outdoor recreational opportunities. EEA urges residents and businesses to continue to be extremely mindful of their overall water use, select only native and drought resistant plants for any new plantings, and follow the following outdoor watering restrictions for non-essential uses*:

- Level 3 – Critical Drought areas ban on all non-essential outdoor water use
- Level 2 – Significant Drought areas limit outdoor watering to hand-held hoses or watering cans, before 9:00 am or after 5:00 pm, and
- Level 1 – Mild Drought areas limit outdoor watering to no more than one day a week (before 9:00 am or after 5:00 pm **only**).

**Essential uses are defined by MassDEP as uses required: a) for health or safety reasons; b) by regulation; c) for the production of food and fiber; d) for the maintenance of livestock; or e) to meet the core functions of a business. Nonessential uses are those other than essential uses.*

Other water conservation tips include:

- Address leaks as soon as possible;
- Conduct water audits on larger buildings and businesses to identify leaks and potential water conservation opportunities;
- Minimize the size of where lawns are watered; and,
- Harvest rainwater for outdoor watering.

Water conservation measures will aid in the reduction of water use and safeguard water for essential needs, such as drinking water, fire protection services, habitat recovery and environmental needs, and sustained water supplies. For more information, please visit EEA's webpages on **indoor**

([/guides/indoor-water-conservation](#)) and **outdoor** ([/guides/outdoor-water-conservation](#)) water use.

While water supplies are currently doing fine, many communities have instituted watering restrictions; individuals are encouraged to also follow watering requirements outlined by their communities' Public Water Supplier. Additionally, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) water supply system is not currently experiencing drought conditions, as defined within its individual plan