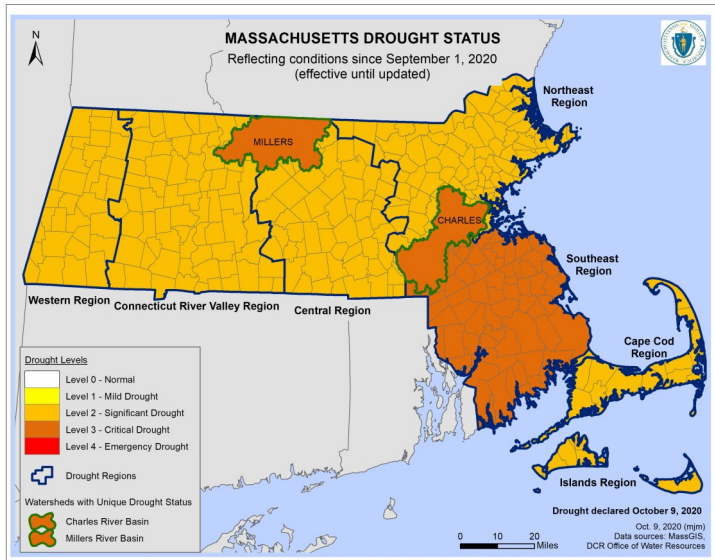
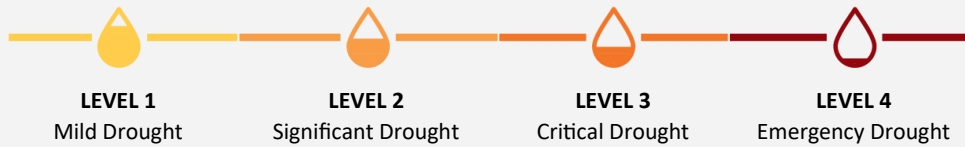


# MASSACHUSETTS DROUGHT ALERT

October 16, 2020



Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs:  
**Kathleen A. Theoharides**

Director of MEMA:  
**Samantha C. Phillips**



## DROUGHT STATUS

Currently, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has declared a **Level 3 – Critical Drought** in the Southeast Region of the Commonwealth and in the Millers and Charles River watersheds. The other six regions across the state — the Western, Connecticut River Valley, Central, Northeast, Cape Cod, and Islands regions— remain at a **Level 2 – Significant Drought**.

## CURRENT CONDITIONS

Due to over five months of below normal rainfall and above normal temperatures, streamflow has deteriorated in many locations with some record low flows, and groundwater is starting to see below normal conditions in many regions.

Extended drought conditions have rendered grasses, shrubs and forest fuels very dry across most of the state, leading to high risk of wildland and brush fires.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

### In Level 3-Critical Drought Areas

#### Residents & Businesses:

- Stop all outdoor watering,
- Save water indoors, Fix leaks.
- Be careful with charcoal grills & open campfires!

#### Cities & Towns:

- Ban all outdoor watering
- Prohibit new landscapes
- Implement water use reduction targets
- Implement drought/seasonal water rates
- Check on & be ready to activate emergency inter-connections

### In Level 2-Significant Drought Areas

#### Residents & Businesses:

- Minimize water use
- Limit outdoor watering to hand-held b/w 5:00 pm-9:00 am

#### Cities & Towns:

- Limit outdoor watering to at least hand-held only b/w 5:00 pm-9:00 am
- Limit new landscapes and outdoor washing
- Implement drought/seasonal water rates
- Establish water use reduction targets

Learn more at [www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management](http://www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management)