

Simplified drought stages and management measures for community water systems

Listed below are sample drought stages and measures to reduce water use. It is recommended that water providers choose two or more options for each stage to complete their drought preparedness plan.

Providers are not restricted to the options listed below.

Providers are not limited to three drought stages.

EXAMPLE Drought Stage Number	EXAMPLE Management measures
<p>Stage 0 (Normal conditions)</p>	<p>Meter water use at the source and all connections</p> <p>Ensure meters are working properly</p> <p>Implement leak detection and repair programs</p> <p>Control evaporation from storage tanks</p> <p>Eliminate illegal connections</p> <p>Encourage low water use landscaping</p> <p>Develop water rate structures that encourage efficient water use (higher rates for higher use)</p> <p>Develop arrangements for alternative/back-up water supplies should they become necessary</p>
<p>Stage 1</p>	<p>Increase system-wide leak detection efforts and expedite repairs</p> <p>Monitor water levels of wells more frequently</p> <p>Communicate drought conditions to customers (include in water bills, post in public places)</p> <p>Establish times and days for outdoor watering (for example, two times per week, between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.)</p> <p>Encourage use of commercial car washing facilities instead of washing at home</p> <p>Include water-saving tips in water bills</p> <p>Advise customers to check homes for leaks and repair immediately</p> <p>Request that customers reduce water usage by x%</p> <p>Continue actions from previous stage</p>
<p>Stage 2</p>	<p>Communicate drought conditions to customers (include in water bills, post in public places)</p> <p>Confirm arrangements for emergency supplies should they become necessary</p> <p>Restrict water use during peak demand hours</p> <p>Restrict non-essential outdoor water use, such as pool filling, car washing</p> <p>Request that customers reduce water use by x% (more than in Stage 1)</p> <p>Continue actions from previous stage</p>

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