



TOWN of FALMOUTH
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, WATER DIVISION
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Matthew Lanen
Water Superintendent

DATE: May 12th, 2025

SUBJECT: Level 2 – Significant Drought – Status Update

PREPARED BY: Matthew Lanen – Water Superintendent

TO: Falmouth, MA Residential and Commercial Water Account Holders

Cc: Peter McConarty, Mike Renshaw, Peter Johnson - Staub

Dear Residential and Commercial Water Account Holders,

The Town of Falmouth (along with the Cape Region) continues to be identified as being in a Level 2 Significant Drought as of May 9th, 2025. MADEP requires permitted water systems to comply with the following restrictions:

- All nonessential outdoor water uses are currently banned
 - Except that watering ornamentals and flower gardens with drip irrigation, hand-hold hose or watering cans may be permitted.

For Region in Level 2 - Significant Drought

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use and be particularly mindful of indoor water use.
- Follow local water use restrictions
- Fix indoor leaks, such as from toilets, faucets, and showers, which result in more than 60 percent of indoor use;
- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities.

What Can You Do?

The actions below apply to all outdoor water users and represent one of the most effective ways to minimize the impacts of drought on water supply and the environment.

Nonessential* Outdoor Water-Use Restrictions at Various Drought Levels

| State Drought Condition (by Region) | Nonessential Outdoor Water-Use Restrictions |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Level 1 (Mild Drought) | 1 day per week watering, after 5 p.m. or before 9 a.m. (to minimize evaporative losses) |
| Level 2 (Significant Drought) | Limit outdoor watering to hand-held hoses or watering cans, to be used only after 5 p.m. or before 9 a.m. |
| Level 3 (Critical Drought) | Ban on all nonessential outdoor water use |
| Level 4 (Emergency Drought) | Ban on all nonessential outdoor water use |

**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.*

MADEP requires customer notification that nonessential water use is banned. Falmouth Water Department customers will be notified that nonessential outdoor water use ban continues to be in effect as of May 9th, 2025, using the following methods:

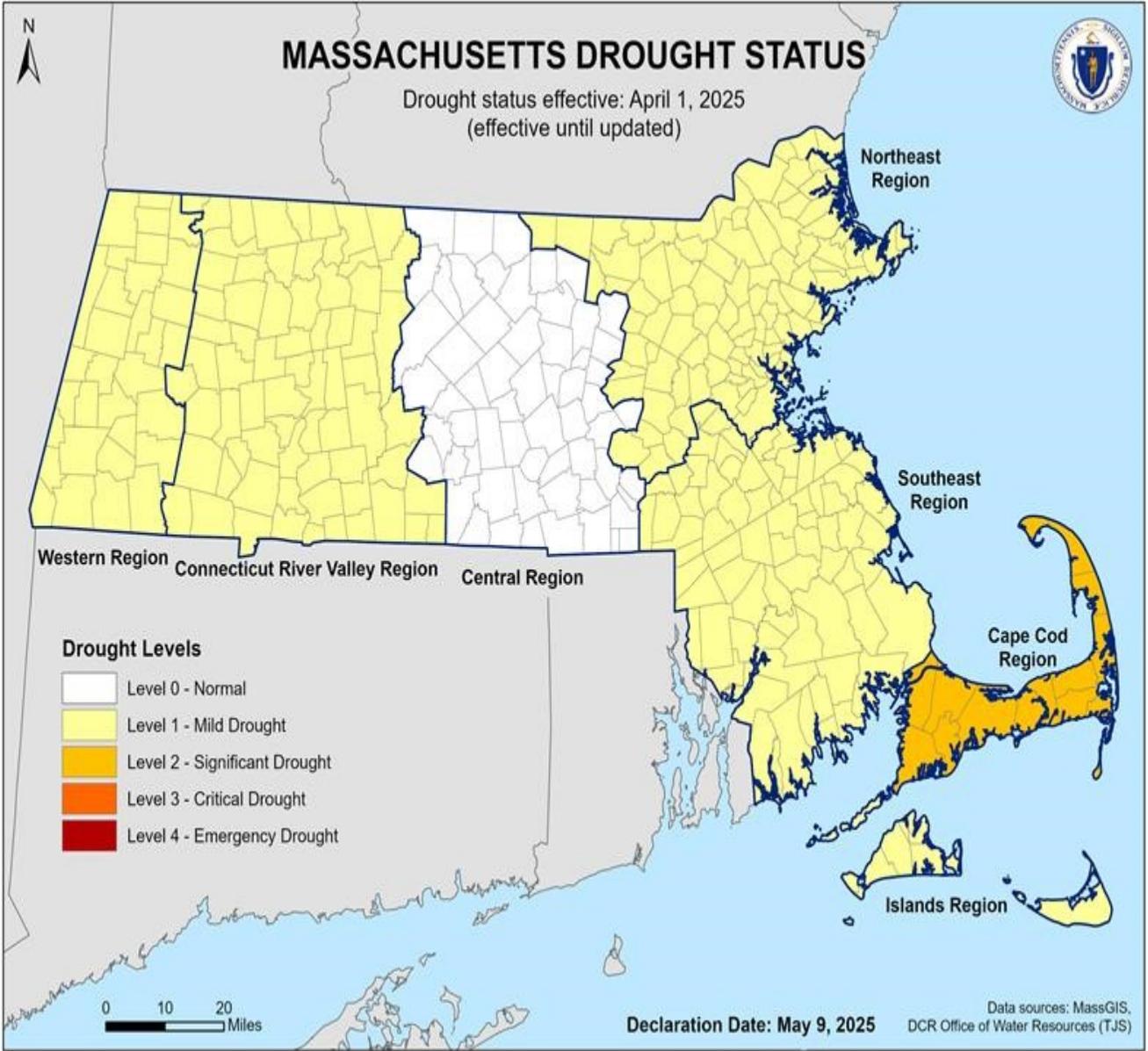
- The Water Department will continue to post the nonessential outdoor water use ban on its website and update the status as needed.
- A newsflash will be posted on the Town's website on May 13th, 2025.

- Mobile signage informing the public of the ban will be placed on major roadways or intersections.
- A notification will be published in The Enterprise on May 16th, 2025.
- A Rave Alert will be issued on May 16th, 2025.

The Falmouth Water Department will enforce the nonessential outdoor water ban as follows:

- Property owners using irrigation during the nonessential water use ban will receive a pink door hanger from the Water Department. If they see a property owner who has their irrigation on during this restriction.
- After placing a door hanger on a home, a work order will be generated to track the home and ensure our residents are following the drought restrictions.
- If homeowners continue to utilize their irrigation when they have been notified, a fine will be issued for non-compliance.

On May 19th, 2025, the Massachusetts Drought Task Force Team hopes to meet again to further review the current drought conditions and update the current regional status. Upon notification from MADEP, Falmouth will continue to comply and follow state drought restrictions until the restrictions have been lifted. I will follow up with the Residential and Commercial Water Account Holders on our status after the May 19th review.



Sincerely,
Matthew Lanen
Falmouth Water Department