

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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### **GOV. EASLEY ASKS CITIZENS, STATE EMPLOYEES TO CONSERVE WATER, COMPLY WITH LOCAL WATER RESTRICTIONS**

*Drought worsens; dry conditions encompass most areas west of I-95*

**RALEIGH** – With more than two-thirds of North Carolina classified with conditions ranging from abnormally dry to severe drought by the Drought Management Advisory Council, Gov. Mike Easley is urging citizens and state employees to conserve water and comply with all local water use restrictions.

“With dry conditions across most of the state, I ask all citizens in these regions to do everything they can to use water wisely,” said Easley. “Since state government is one of the largest water consumers, I am asking state employees to take immediate steps to conserve water both at work and at home and comply with all local water use restrictions. State government will do its part to reduce the stress on our water supplies.

According to the latest advisory issued today by the N.C. Drought Management Advisory Council, the drought in northern and central Piedmont has been upgraded from first-level to severe drought, following below-normal rainfall amounts for the past 60 days, low streamflows and continued low reservoir levels. The severe drought conditions affect most of the Triangle, including Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Randolph, Stanly and Wake counties. First-level drought conditions are seen in central North Carolina, covering Anson, Cabarrus, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Scotland, Union, Vance and Warren counties.

“We have proven that we can manage these situations in 2002 and we will continue to implement long-term conservation measures while maintaining strong working relationships with local public water suppliers,” said Easley. “It is important that everyone, including state and local governments, citizens and business owners, continue to work together to manage our water resources prudently.”

As a consequence of these unusually dry conditions, the city of Raleigh and several other Triangle municipalities, including Apex, Knightdale, Wendell and Zebulon, have enacted mandatory water restrictions. Other local governments are expected to take similar actions if weather conditions remain the same and water supplies are not replenished. At the Governor’s direction, Dept. of Administration Secretary Gwynn Swinson is also asking state agencies to reduce all non-essential water consumption.

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Mandatory water restrictions in Raleigh include:

- Automatic spray irrigation systems can be used only from 10 p.m. to midnight and from 12:01 a.m. to 5 a.m. Non-automatic systems can be used only from 6 p.m. to midnight and from 12:01 a.m. to 6 a.m.
- Watering by either system is allowed only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays for even-numbered addresses, and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for odd-numbered addresses.
- Irrigate only if plants need water. If grass springs back after you step on it, there is no need. Do not apply more than one inch of water per week. Do not directly water impervious surfaces such as streets, driveways and sidewalks.
- Water will not be served in public restaurants except upon request.
- Leaking water services or plumbing must be repaired within 24 hours of written notification by the city's public utilities director.
- No water may be added to any decorative fountain, pool or pond except what is necessary to maintain aquatic life.
- Vehicles may be washed only at professional car washes.
- No swimming or wading pools may be filled.
- Do not wash sidewalks, patios, decks, driveways and building exteriors.

Today's drought advisory also indicates that parts of central and western North Carolina have abnormally dry conditions. These counties include Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Bladen, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Cumberland, Davie, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Halifax, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Johnston, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Nash, Northampton, Polk, Robeson, Rutherford, Sampson, Stokes, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wayne, Wilkes, Wilson and Yancey. The DMAC requests that water users in these counties closely monitor their water supply source for diminished capacity and take precautions to prepare for impending drought conditions.

The DMAC was formed by the General Assembly following the drought of 2002. The DMAC issues official drought advisories, based on technical data and adjusted for varying conditions in different parts of the state, to provide local governments with a reliable basis for managing drought response in their region. Membership in the DMAC is comprised of officials from the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service; the State Climate Office at N.C. State University; public staff from the Utilities Commission; the Wildlife Resources Commission; N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Department of Commerce; Department of Crime Control and Public Safety; National Weather Service; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Federal Emergency Management Agency; and N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

For the latest information on drought conditions in North Carolina, including the latest drought advisory, a real-time listing of water systems under water restrictions and water conservation tips, visit the DMAC website at <http://www.ncdrought.org>.

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