



## MAYOR'S OFFICE

*City of Leominster, Massachusetts*

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### Mayor Dean Mazzarella: Mandatory Water Ban Effective Immediately

The City of Leominster is issuing a mandatory water ban effective immediately. The odd/even voluntary ban has been discontinued. The water ban is now mandatory. Details are as follows:

- Outdoor water use must be limited to "handheld watering" with a hose or a watering can after 5pm or before 9am (to avoid evaporative losses).
- Filling swimming pools, washing cars and washing buildings is prohibited.
- All outdoor sprinkler systems must be turned off immediately.
- The washing of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking areas or other paved surfaces is prohibited.

### Drought Level Increases for Regions of Commonwealth, Other Areas Unchanged Monitoring of Water Resources to Continue, Water Conservation by Public Necessary

"With widespread drought conditions continuing into September, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency is asking the public, including households and businesses that draw water from private wells, to conserve water by reducing indoor and outdoor water usage. Immediate action by the public is necessary to help address the falling reservoir and ground water levels in many areas of the state," said Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Director Kurt Schwartz. "In addition, because the extremely dry conditions have increased the threat of brush and wildland fires, the public is urged to exercise extreme caution when using matches, charcoal grills, and other open flames during outdoor activities."

A Drought Warning, as outlined in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, indicates consecutive months of groundwater, stream flow and reservoir levels being below normal, and initiates a much more concerted set of government responses including instating water restrictions, and more intensified monitoring and coordination between the agencies. Areas within the Drought Warning are currently experiencing precipitation levels 5 to 8 inches below normal over past four months. The declaration of a Drought Watch represents extremely low groundwater and streamflow levels resulting from prolonged periods of precipitation deficit, including a lack of snowfall in the winter months. The declaration of a Drought Watch warrants detailed monitoring of drought conditions, close coordination among state and federal agencies, and technical outreach and assistance for the affected municipalities. Additionally, a Drought Advisory indicates a level of dry conditions that warrants closer tracking by government agencies.

*Any questions may be referred to the Department of Public Works. 978-534-7590 ext. 506*