

HOW MY COMMUNITY IS PREPARING FOR DROUGHT



WHAT IS IT?

Drought is a period of abnormally dry weather that persists long enough to produce a serious hydrologic imbalance, such as crop damage or water-supply shortage. Drought is a recurrent, normal feature of climate. Drought conditions can last from several months to several years.

WHEN DOES IT OCCUR?

Drought alerts are typically issued in the summer months. The economic impact of drought, however, can extend year-round.

WHERE DOES IT OCCUR?

Drought occurs in most places on Earth in one form or another. Drought tends to be regional in scope, so a drought in our area would affect the entire Kansas City metro area.

CORRESPONDING HAZARDS

Drought can be exacerbated by other climatic conditions, including high temperatures, high winds and low humidity.

DAMAGE TYPE & SEVERITY

A drought's severity is dependent on a variety of factors, including duration, degree of moisture deficiency and size of the affected area. The environmental impacts may include damage to plant and animal species, wildlife habitat, and air and water quality; forest and range fires; degradation of landscape quality; loss of biodiversity; and soil erosion. Drought can also have social impacts, including mental and physical stress; public health and safety problems related to low-flow water situations; restrictions on water use and conflicts from these restrictions; reduced quality of life resulting from forced changes in lifestyle; loss of aesthetic values of landscaping and property; and reduction or modification of recreational activities involving water.

VULNERABLE AREAS

Rural areas and small communities tend to be more affected than large municipalities with more robust water supplies and modern water infrastructure.

COMMUNITIES	ACTION
RC	1. Conduct an assessment of the vulnerability and water-use demand of local water systems by using the procedures in the Missouri Drought Plan.
RC	2. Partner with public drinking water programs, water resources programs and USDA to use USDA's Reservoir Operation Study computer program to determine the performance capacity of local reservoirs.
RC	3. Review the Missouri Drought Plan and other available drought plans to develop a local plan.
	4. Develop local procedures for implementing the Missouri Drought Plan.
	5. Work with MARC to develop drought plans and water conservation programs.
	6. Develop and conduct public education and awareness programs on drought mitigation, drought response and water conservation.
	7. Collect and disseminate public education materials that address water conservation strategies, particularly those addressing agricultural drought mitigation and management.

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COMMUNITIES	ACTION
	8. Develop and implement a program to encourage voluntary water conservation.
	9. Offer economic incentives, such as modification of water-rate structures, to encourage water conservation.
	10. Develop and implement water conservation ordinances.
	11. Budget for infrastructure improvements to municipal water systems.
	12. Develop and approve bond measures to fund improvements to municipal or water district water treatment plants, transmission systems, water mains and related infrastructure.
	13. Identify and apply for state and federal grants to improve water treatment plants, transmission systems, water mains and related infrastructure.

