

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter #2020-73

To: Community Public Water Systems
Non-Transient Non-Community Public Water Systems

From: Lori J. Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief
Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch  2020

Date: October 7, 2020

Subject: **2020 Drought Situation – Water Supply Capacity Reports, Bulk Water Hauling, and Begin Conservation Notification**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) is advising community public water system to take action in response to the severe increase in drought/ dryness within Connecticut. The Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup has identified significant portions of Hartford, New London, Tolland, and Windham counties are experiencing conditions consistent with Stage 3 drought. Litchfield and Middlesex Counties remain at Stage 2, and Fairfield and New Haven Counties remain at Stage 1.

Due to the lower than normal precipitation this summer/fall and the typical higher water demands associated with the summer outdoor water use, water supply sources are being strained and must be carefully monitored. Ground water and surface waters have not fully recharged due to the amount of dryness, therefore action is needed to monitor and conserve water, as well as decrease the overall demand.

This circular letter serves the purpose in reminding and encouraging community public water systems to submit weekly public water supply capacity reports, bulk water hauling procedures if needed, and to begin conservation notification to consumers.

1. Public Water Supply Capacity Reporting (Reduce, Monitor, and report):

- Public Water Supply Capacity Reporting for Ground Water or Surface Water Capacity Reporting is needed weekly to monitor demands. All capacity reporting should be sent to DPH Water Supply Capacity: DPHWaterSupplyCapacity@ct.gov .



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2. Bulk Water Hauling Reporting:

- As a reminder, if receiving water from a bulk water hauler be sure to complete the water hauling notification form found in the link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/drinking_water/pdf/BulkWaterHaulingNotificationFormpdf.pdf
 - Completed forms should be submitted to: dwdcompliance@ct.gov
- The completed notification form must be forwarded to the DPH. Please also ensure that the water hauling company is following proper sanitary measures by reviewing the bulk water hauling guidelines document found in the link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/drinking_water/pdf/BulkWaterHaulingGuidelinespdf.pdf

3. Begin Conservation Notification to Consumers:

DPH recommends the following water conservation measures for both public water users and private well owners:

- Turn off the sprinkler system for the season. If you must water your lawn, only do it once weekly.
- Postpone the planting of any new lawns or vegetation. If you must plant, choose drought resistant varieties
- Refrain from unnecessary or wasteful uses of water, such as the rinsing of sidewalks, driveways, and patios
- Run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads.
- Do not leave the faucet running unnecessarily when washing dishes, shaving, brushing teeth, and washing hands.
- Take shorter showers. Consider reducing your shower time by one minute each day until you are taking a five-minute shower.
- Avoid power washing buildings and washing vehicles.
- Fix leakages that you may find around the home or business.

For additional information on conservation please see the DPH Drinking Water Section *Water Saving Options* Factsheet:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/drinking_water/pdf/wateffmeapdf.pdf

COVID-19: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, DPH is still strongly encouraging water usage for sanitary purposes such as hand washing to reduce the spread of the virus.