

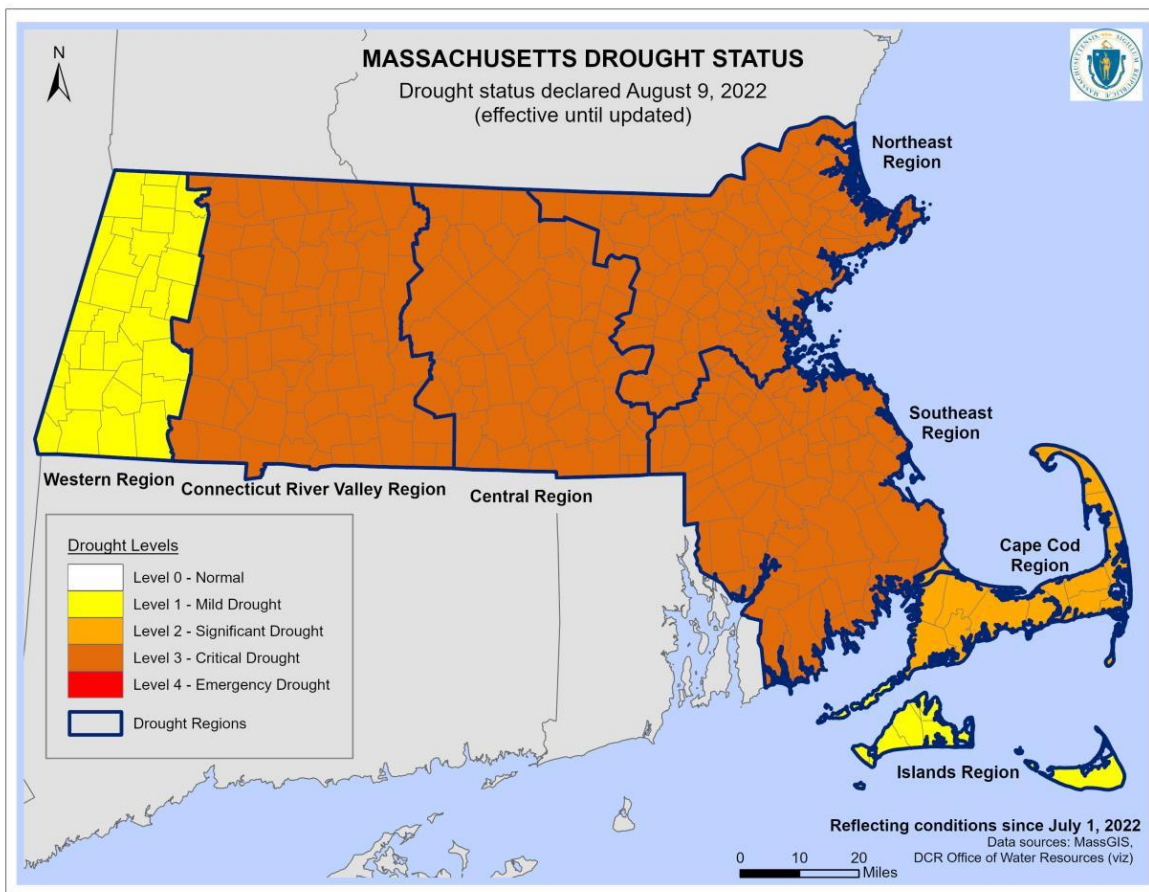


TOWN OF FREETOWN  
60°5'8"N, 71°5'8"W  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN HALL • P. O. BOX 438 • ASSONET, MASSACHUSETTS 02702

## DROUGHT INFORMATION & RESOURCES

The Town of Freetown, like all of Massachusetts, is currently in a drought due to over six months of little rainfall. The Town has gone from a Level 1 – Mild Drought to a Level 3 – Critical Drought in just a few short months. The drought level has been increasing, as has the negative impacts on the environment such as low stream flows, decreasing groundwater supply, and drought-induced fire potential increasing. Limiting overall water use whether serviced by Town water or a private well is one way you can help mitigate the impacts of the drought.



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Drought Management - <https://www.mass.gov/guides/drought-management-in-massachusetts>

Water Conservation - <https://www.mass.gov/conservemawater>



# TOWN OF FREETOWN BOARD OF HEALTH AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN HALL • P. O. BOX 438 • ASSONET, MASSACHUSETTS 02702

## INFORMATION FOR PRIVATE WELL OWNERS

During a drought, wells and reservoirs can drop to low levels because there is less water to draw from the ground. Your water supply will be affected if the drought continues. Any water conservation efforts you make can have a great benefit on your own water supply, and the community's water supply. If you follow town restrictions and conserve water appropriately, you will help your community to have enough water for fire protection (the likelihood of fires increases as conditions get dry), public health and safety, and the environment. To help, you can:

- Be mindful of the amount of water you use
- Follow the same water restrictions that your city or town is following

Remember, even if you have your own well, it almost always still comes from the same source as the public water supply, as long as you are in the same river basin. Water conservation measures are critical and should be started early. Reducing your water use can save water for the future! You can get more information about your well from your local Board of Health.

### IF YOUR WELL GOES DRY – PRIVATE CITIZEN

- First contact your town office, your local Board of Health and emergency management official to report your dry well and to determine if there are any local resources available to help.
- If you need immediate hook-up to a water connection, contact your local fire department and/or school to see if you may be able to use their facilities.
- If you have enough storage available at your residence, you may also be able to buy water from private water suppliers and tankers.
- Contact a well driller to explore options such as well replacement, or deepening the well to access water lower into the water table. MassDEP has more information on well drilling.

### IF YOUR WELL GOES DRY – FARMER OR SMALL BUSINESS

- Contact your local city or town office, and board of health to report that your well is going dry;
- A farmer may contact Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources for assistance
- If you have enough storage available at your farm, you may also be able to buy water from private water suppliers and tankers.