

Drought creates environmental conditions that increase the risk of other hazards such as wildfire, flash flood, landslides and debris flow.

Drought is a result of a natural decline in the expected precipitation over an extended period of time, typically one or more seasons in length.

A drought's severity depends on numerous factors, including duration, intensity, and geographic extent as well as regional water supply demands.

While the Sonoran Desert's arid climate has subjected Maricopa County to drought conditions throughout its history, water management efforts have mitigated water shortages for the past century.

Do You Know How to Turn off Your Water?

Water quickly becomes a precious resource following many disasters. Before an emergency happens, locate the shut-off valve for the water line that enters your house and label this valve with a tag for easy identification. Make sure all household members know where it is located.

Information Zone

Follow these agencies on social media:

- Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management
- Arizona Emergency Information Network
- Central Arizona Project
- Salt River Project
- Water Use It Wisely



Maricopa County

Emergency Management

5630 E. McDowell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85008
602-273-1411
ready.maricopa.gov

Publication made possible by a grant from The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, Title III Funds under 2009 Forestry Fees with the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

2018

ARE YOU READY? DROUGHT

Preparedness Starts with You!



Maricopa County
Emergency Management

Before

Know Your Risk & Be Informed

- Strategies for drought preparedness focus mainly on water conservation. Practice a low water use lifestyle.
- Visit www.azwater.gov to see drought status in your area.
- Visit wateruseitwisely.com to find ways to conserve water.
- Visit srpnet.com to find out about water conservation rebates offered by Valley Cities.
- Always observe state and local restrictions on water use during a drought.

Prepare Yourself & Your Family

- Develop and practice a **Disaster Plan** with your family to prepare for what to do, where to go, and how to communicate during any disaster.
- Prepare to evacuate by creating a **Go Bag** for each individual and pet. Consider including one in your vehicle and one at work.
- Prepare to stay in your home for up to 3 days (without electricity or running water) by creating an **Emergency Kit**.
- Visit ready.maricopa.gov and ein.az.gov to learn more about how to prepare for disasters.

Prepare Your Home

- Replace plumbing and fixtures with water-saving items.
- Fix household leaks.
- Only operate dishwashers and clothes washers when they are full or set the water level for the size of your load.
- Avoid running water while brushing your teeth, shaving, etc.
- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it. For example, use it to water your plants.
- Repair outdoor irrigation systems and reset timers seasonally.
- Use drought-tolerant or low water use plants for your landscaping.
- Cover pools and spas to reduce evaporation of water.

During

Take Action Indoors

- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects, and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- Choose showers instead of baths.
- Hand wash dishes. Fill one container with soapy water and one with rinse water containing a small amount of bleach.
- Avoid wasting water while waiting for it to get hot. Capture it for other uses, such as plant-watering, or heat it on the stove or in a microwave.
- Avoid using running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods.

Take Action Outdoors

- Reduce outdoor water use (washing car, refilling pool).
- Divert pool back wash to landscaping rather than discharging into the street/alley.
- Avoid over-watering your lawn. Water only when needed and when temperatures are cooler in the morning or late in the evening.
- Water in short sessions and avoid leaving sprinklers or hoses unattended.