

PRIVATE WELL WATER USER - Resource Sheet

How can the Drought impact Drinking Water Sources?

During periods of drought, especially when conditions are severe (drought watch and higher), water sources such as reservoirs and wells that draw from underground aquifers are slow to recharge and can drop to very low levels. As the drought persists, these levels continue to decrease significantly and can affect all water users.

Does my small private well have any impact on water levels?

All sources of water that are within a river basin, irrespective of the location or type of withdrawal, ultimately get their water from that same basin. The impact from your private well withdrawal along with all others in the watershed does impact the total amount of water available in that basin. During a drought, with less water available the impacts will be felt by all. And overuse of water, especially for outdoor purposes will deplete sources.

Will my efforts to conserve water make any difference?

No matter where you get your water, any water conservation efforts you take will help alleviate the impacts on your source of water. Being mindful of the amount of water you use, and following the same watering restrictions as your town's public water supply system will help stretch your water supplies until conditions improve. It will also allow 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.

So remember, even if you have your own well, it almost always still comes from the same place 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!

How can I get more Information about my well?

If you are looking for more information about your well, contact your local Board of Health (BOH). Upon installation of any well, a well driller is required to submit copies of the Well Completion Report to the local BOH and the MassDEP Well Driller Program. By contacting either office, you should be able to get a copy of your Well Completion Report, which contains well construction details and geologic descriptions.



If I am a private citizen and my well goes dry what should I do?

- 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 for assistance
- 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. For a list of vendors, click [here](#).
- For a long-term solution, contact a well digger to explore options such as well replacement, deepening the well to access water lower into the water table. For more information on well drilling visit the MassDEP website on private wells [here](#).

If I am a small business or a farmer with a private well that is running dry what should I do?

- 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. For a list of vendors, click [here](#).
- Governor Baker has made available micro-loans for small businesses and farmers that have been impacted by the drought. For information on the Massachusetts Drought Emergency Loan Fund, click [here](#).
- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced federal Economic Injury Disaster Loans for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and private nonprofit organizations located in the counties of Essex, Middlesex and Worcester. Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from www.sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than April 25, 2017.

