



SERVICE FINDER

Drought Advisory Update

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Drought Advisory Update

Drought watch advisory lifted for 49 counties in Virginia

RICHMOND, Va. –The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in coordination with the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force, has lifted the drought watch advisory for 49 counties throughout the Commonwealth. Although recent rains have helped alleviate deficits in soil moisture, streamflows, and groundwater levels, 15 counties remain under a drought watch advisory, and 7 counties remain in a drought warning advisory.

A drought watch advisory, which is intended to help Virginians prepare for a potential drought, has been lifted for the Eastern Shore, Middle James, Northern Piedmont, Northern Virginia, Roanoke River, and York-James regions, which include the following localities:

- Eastern Shore: Accomack and Northampton counties
- Middle James: Amherst, Nelson, Albemarle, Appomattox, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Prince Edward, Cumberland, Goochland, Amelia, Powhatan, Chesterfield, Henrico, and Hanover counties, and the cities of Petersburg, Lynchburg, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, Charlottesville, and Richmond
- Northern Piedmont: Greene, Madison, Rappahannock, Orange, Culpeper, Louisa, Spotsylvania, and Stafford counties, and the City of Fredericksburg
- Northern Virginia: Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Arlington, and Fairfax counties
- Roanoke River: Patrick, Franklin, Roanoke, Henry, Bedford, Pittsylvania, Campbell, Halifax, Charlotte, and Mecklenburg counties
- York-James: Hampton, Newport News, James City, York, Charles City, and New Kent counties

A drought watch advisory remains in effect for the following areas:

- Big Sandy: Lee, Wise, Buchanan, Dickenson, Scott, Russell, Tazewell, Washington, and Smyth counties
- Upper James: Craig, Alleghany, Bath, Highland, Botetourt, and Rockbridge counties

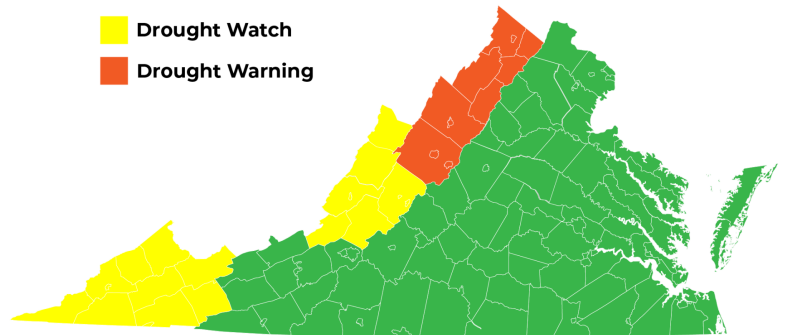
A drought warning advisory indicates a significant drought is imminent and remains in effect for the Shenandoah region, which includes Augusta, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Frederick, Page, Warren, and Clarke counties.

Several factors have contributed to the improving drought conditions. Much of the Commonwealth has experienced above average precipitation during the past month. However, long-term precipitation deficits remain in the Shenandoah Valley and Southwest Virginia (Upper James and Big Sandy regions). Streamflows have largely improved but are currently below the 25th percentile for the Big Sandy, New

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River, and Upper James regions. This is expected to improve in the coming days. Groundwater levels while somewhat improved throughout the Commonwealth, remain below the 5th percentile within the Big Sandy and Shenandoah regions.

DEQ is working with local governments, public water works, and water users in the affected areas to ensure that conservation and drought response plans and ordinances are followed. All Virginians are encouraged to protect water supplies by minimizing water use, monitor drought conditions, and detect and repair leaks.

See the current drought status on the [DEQ website](#).

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