



**NEWS RELEASE: Drought Advisory Update**

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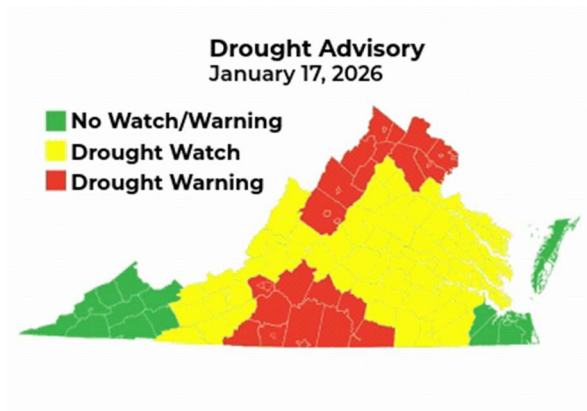
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**DROUGHT ADVISORY UPDATE**

*Drought warning expanded to 39 counties and 16 cities  
Drought watch advisory maintained in 44 counties and 15 cities*

**Richmond, Va.** – The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in coordination with the [Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force](#), has expanded the warning advisory to now include 39 counties and 16 cities, and has maintained the existing drought watch advisory in 44 counties and 15 cities in Virginia. Twelve counties and



seven cities are not currently under drought watch or warning advisories.

A **drought warning** advisory is intended to increase awareness that the onset of a significant drought event is imminent and includes the following areas:

- **Chowan:** Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Greensville, Lunenburg, Nottoway, Prince George, Southampton, Surry, and Sussex counties and the cities of Emporia and Franklin.
- **Northern Piedmont:** Culpeper, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Orange, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, and Stafford counties and the city of Fredericksburg.
- **Northern Virginia:** Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, and Prince William counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park.
- **Roanoke River:** Bedford, Campbell, Charlotte, Franklin, Halifax, Henry, Mecklenburg, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Roanoke counties and the cities of Danville, Martinsville, Roanoke, and Salem.
- **Shenandoah:** Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties and the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester.

A **drought watch** advisory is intended to help Virginians prepare for a potential drought and includes the following areas:

- **Middle James:** Albemarle, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Buckingham, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Fluvanna, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Nelson, Powhatan, and Prince Edward counties and the cities of Charlottesville, Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Lynchburg, Petersburg, and Richmond.
- **New River:** Bland, Carroll, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe counties and the cities of Galax and Radford.
- **Northern Coastal Plain:** Caroline, Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties
- **Upper James:** Alleghany, Bath, Botetourt, Craig, Highland, and Rockbridge counties and the cities of Buena Vista, Covington, and Lexington.
- **York-James:** Charles City, James City, New Kent, and York counties and the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, and Williamsburg.

Continued precipitation deficits have resulted in further declines and sustained much-below normal streamflow, groundwater, and soil moisture levels throughout most of the Commonwealth. Hydrologic drought conditions are currently observed in portions of the Chowan, Northern Piedmont, Northern Virginia, Roanoke, and Shenandoah Drought Evaluation Regions. Reservoir levels across the Commonwealth remain largely normal, except for Smith Mountain Lake, where warning conditions are present, and Lake Moomaw, where watch conditions are present. The forecast for the next week suggests limited precipitation for most of the Commonwealth (0.1 - 0.5"). Despite recent winter precipitation, the snow and ice has not been enough to recharge ground and surface waters in those 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. Localities and residents that are supplied water from the Potomac River should consult the [Metropolitan Washington Water Supply and Drought Awareness Response Plan](#) for specific triggers and actions to be taken. All Virginians are encouraged to protect water supplies by minimizing water use, monitoring drought conditions, and detecting and repairing leaks.

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

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### **About DEQ**

The Department of Environmental Quality protects and enhances Virginia's environment and promotes the health and well being of the citizens of the Commonwealth. We are committed to cleaner water, improved air quality, and the productive re-use of contaminated land.

For more information, please visit [www.DEQ.Virginia.gov](http://www.DEQ.Virginia.gov).