

CITY OF DOVER

288 CENTRAL AVENUE
DOVER, NH 03820
WWW.DOVER.NH.GOV
603.516.6000

DECLARATION OF WATER EMERGENCY (2022 DROUGHT)

WHEREAS, the City of Dover operates a public, municipal water system that depends, in significant part, on continual recharge through periodic rainfall throughout the year;

WHEREAS, many areas of New Hampshire have experienced abnormally low precipitation in the late spring and summer of 2022, with the local Dover area recording as much as 11 inches below year-to-date expected precipitation, which has led to almost all of New Hampshire either in “abnormally dry” or “drought” conditions;

WHEREAS, following consultation with hydrogeologists monitoring our aquifer levels, the persistent drought conditions this summer have made an outdoor watering ban necessary at this time to ensure we can sustain safe drinking water supply throughout the city into the fall and winter months;

WHEREAS, as of August 16, 2022, according to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) drought classification over half of Strafford County, including all of the City of Dover, is currently experiencing severe drought (D2);

WHEREAS, the City has been experiencing daily usage upwards of 2.7 million gallons per day this summer and, by putting restrictions in place we can curtail usage to below 2 million gallons/day;

WHEREAS, with the Pudding Hill Aquifer remaining offline until the new treatment plant becomes operational next year, we must reduce consumption so our remaining wells can continue to meet essential public drinking water needs for the time being;

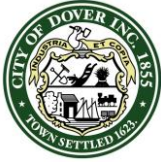
WHEREAS, City staff have reviewed current water capacity and future weather forecasts and concur with NHDES that certain water restrictions are necessary and prudent;

WHEREAS, state law authorizes public water suppliers such as the City of Dover to restrict non-essential water use when there is a threat of demand exceeding supply, *see* RSA 38:26; RSA chapter 485; *see also* N.H. Code of Admin. Rules, Env-Dw chapter 503;

WHEREAS, the City of Dover has enacted a local ordinance to address such emergency water shortages, *see* Dover Code § 121-51 *et seq.*;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, by the authority vested in me pursuant to Dover Code § 121-51 *et seq.*, does hereby declare that:

1. A “water emergency” exists in the City of Dover by reason of a shortage of water due to drought conditions.



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2. Due to ongoing drought conditions, the City of Dover's public water system is unable to or will, within 60 days of this declaration, become unable to supply the full commercial domestic and residential needs of the users of the City's water system.
3. An Order and Public Notice of Water Emergency Restrictions (2022 Drought) accompanies this declaration specifying water restrictions for non-essential use of water.

Given under my hand on this 22nd day of August, 2022, in the City of Dover, New Hampshire.



J. Michael Joyal, Jr.
City Manager