

# STATE OF DELAWARE



## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
NUMBER THIRTY-TWO

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES  
AND ALL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL UNITS OF  
THE STATE OF DELAWARE

RE: CONTINUATION OF DROUGHT WARNING; MANDATORY RESTRICTION ON  
CERTAIN NON-ESSENTIAL USES OF WATER

WHEREAS, it is essential to avoid or mitigate the adverse impact of a drought that may cause a state of emergency to be declared; and

WHEREAS, cumulative rainfall in the State has been significantly below normal for the last two years, with precipitation for the water year now ending showing a deficiency of 7-13 inches below normal; and

WHEREAS, current streamflow throughout the Christina River drainage basin is significantly below normal levels, and in some cases so low as to warrant special operations by purveyors; and

WHEREAS, ground water wells are at levels similarly below normal, and dropping; and

WHEREAS, said conditions can reasonably be expected to persist during the fall season; and

WHEREAS, this and other more detailed hydrologic information compiled by the Drought Advisory Committee indicate the approach of a drought in the State, or parts thereof, which may cause the declaration of a state of emergency pursuant to 20 Del. C. §§ 3125 and 3133; and

WHEREAS, a high degree of cooperation between the various water uses and water users of Delaware, particularly among the interconnected water supply systems of Northern New Castle County, will be necessary during a drought and will require constant communication between spokespersons representing these interests; and

WHEREAS, the State's comprehensive water resources planning process has established a phased approach in implementing drought contingency measures; and

WHEREAS, the preceding conditions dictate that every water user in New Castle County north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal must contribute to the conservation of water resources by limiting non-essential uses of water; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order Number Twenty-Seven, approved July 10, 1986, a drought warning was declared for the State of Delaware and voluntary restrictions on all non-essential uses of water were imposed; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order Number Twenty-Seven, and in accordance with 20 Del. C. §3132(d), public hearings have been held to consider potential mandatory restrictions on water use should such action become necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Drought Advisory Committee unanimously recommends that mandatory water usage restrictions be imposed upon all users located in New Castle County north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

NOW, THEREFORE, I MICHAEL N. CASTLE, by the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order that:

1. Pursuant to my authority under 20 Del. C. §3132, the previously-declared drought warning is continued and mandatory restrictions on the use of water are imposed in that portion of the State of Delaware north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, to wit:

The following non-essential uses of water are prohibited:

(a) The use of fresh water for non-agricultural irrigation and watering of outdoor gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs, and outdoor plants with the following exceptions which are appropriate only from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.:

(i) Water applied by hand-held containers or hand-held hoses with manually operated flow control nozzles for irrigation to domestic vegetable and fruit gardens or low pressure perforated hoses with the user in attendance; and

(ii) Water used by commercial nurseries at the minimum amount necessary to maintain stock; and

(iii) Water applied in the minimum amount necessary to implement revegetation of land following earth moving where it is necessary to prevent soil erosion; and

(iv) Water applied in the minimum amount necessary to allow new lawns and shrubs to survive or for application of fertilizers and herbicides to existing lawns.

(b) The use of water for washing paved surfaces such as streets, roads, sidewalks, driveways, garages, parking areas, tennis courts and patios;

(c) The use of water for watering any portion of golf courses, except tees and greens which may be watered only from 5:00 a.m. to 8 a.m.;

(d) The use of water for ornamental purposes including fountains, artificial waterfalls, and reflecting pools;

(e) The use of water for non-commercial washing and cleaning of automobiles, trucks, or other motor vehicles and trailers, except emergency vehicles and domestic washing from hand-held buckets and hand-held hoses with automatic flow control nozzles where use is restricted to the minimum volume necessary and is acceptable only on unpaved surfaces;

(f) The use of water from a fire hydrant for any purposes (including the use of sprinkler caps) except for fire fighting;

(g) The use of water for flushing sewers or hydrants except as deemed necessary in the interest of public health and safety;

(h) The serving of water in restaurants, clubs, and entertainment establishments unless specifically requested by a customer.

Additionally, the citizens of Delaware are urged to adopt other measures to save water where possible, including observing the following practices: repairing leaky water fixtures; flushing toilets only when necessary; minimizing splashing from swimming pools and avoiding evaporation by covering pools when not in use; installing shower flow restrictors, toilet dams, and faucet aerators.

2. The voluntary restrictions on the non-essential use of water imposed by Executive Order Number Twenty-Seven are continued. To the extent the mandatory restrictions imposed by this Executive Order govern the same uses restricted by Executive Order Number Twenty-Seven, the mandatory restrictions set forth in this Executive Order shall control.

3. Delaware water suppliers are requested to consider the adoption of such other water conservation measures as may be practicable.

4. The Drought Advisory Committee shall continue to meet on a regular basis and report to the Governor on water conditions and other issues which may cause a state of emergency to be declared.

5. The drought warning shall continue until the Drought Advisory Committee recommends to the Governor that he issue an executive order terminating it.

APPROVED this <sup>25<sup>th</sup></sup> day  
of September, 1986.

  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
Secretary of State

