

## SEQUENCE OF DROUGHT ACTIONS

2024 (Pre-Helene)

The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council (DMAC) normally uses the US Drought Monitor and/or the Palmer Drought Severity Index to trigger a sequence of response actions (listed below) when drought occurs. The use of the US Drought Monitor and Palmer Index does not preclude use of other indices or information as appropriate to help depict drought for water supply, agriculture, or forest resources and particularly to decide when to activate Task Forces or when to elevate the State EOC to an Enhanced Watch or SERT activation.

<b>DMAC Determinations</b>	<b>Drought Severity</b>	<b>Actions To Be Taken</b>
Normal	Normal Conditions	Technical data is monitored periodically by the Division of Water Resources and significant information is sent to North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM)
Drought Emerges	Normal to Dry Conditions	The Division of Water Resources monitors, maps, and discusses trend with the DMAC.
DMAC determines threshold conditions for drought have been met	Entering Phase 1 (Moderate Drought)	DMAC monitors technical data and developing trends.  DMAC begins issuing drought advisories and provides drought status information to NCEM and other State agencies.
DMAC determines drought has increased in severity.	Entering Phase 2 (Severe Drought)	DMAC may request SERT activation if drought impact requires.  DPS appoints a Joint Public Information Officer when/if SERT is activated.

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	Phase 2 (Severe Drought) Continued	<p>The assigned PIO establishes the Joint Information Center (JIC) which provides media status information.</p> <p>DMAC and/or NCEM activate appropriate task forces.</p> <p>Activated task forces make assessments of drought impact.</p> <p>If activated, the SERT provides Situation Reports and/or Executive Summaries as required.</p> <p>If the SERT is activated, task forces keep JIC advised of drought impacts.</p> <p>Lead agencies use available resources to undertake response actions within their normal programs.</p> <p>If activated, the SERT documents unmet needs and assigns response to appropriate lead departments.</p>

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<b>DMAC Determinations</b>	<b>Drought Severity</b>	<b>Actions To Be Taken</b>
<p>DMAC determines indicators and forecasts worsen and unmet needs prevail.</p>	<p>Entering Phase 3 (Extreme Drought)</p>	<p>The Environmental Management Commission (EMC) may take action within statutory authority as requested by the Division of Water Resources.</p> <p>Task Forces continue to make assessment reports.</p> <p>DMAC reports unmet needs to the SERT.</p> <p>The SERT determines which needs can be met by reallocation of existing resources.</p>
<p>DMAC determines indicators and forecasts worsen and unmet needs prevail.</p>	<p>Entering Phase 4 (Exceptional Drought)</p>	<p>The Environmental Management Commission (EMC) may take action within statutory authority as requested by the Division of Water Resources.</p> <p>Task Forces continue to make assessment reports.</p> <p>The SERT assembles data necessary to support a Governor’s request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration from FEMA or a declaration from the US Secretary of Agriculture.</p> <p>The Governor may request a Presidential Disaster Declaration or an Agricultural Disaster Declaration.</p> <p>The State Coordinating Officer works with FEMA to secure necessary federal assistance.</p>

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<b>DMAC Determinations</b>	<b>Drought Severity</b>	<b>Actions To Be Taken</b>
The DMAC determines the drought has subsided.	Leaving Phase 4 (Exceptional Drought) and returning to Phase 3 (Extreme Drought)  Leaving Phase 4 continued	The SERT determines whether all requests for assistance are being met within established channels.  Task forces continue to make assessments and reports.
The DMAC determines the drought has further subsided.	Leaving Phase 3 (Extreme Drought) and returning to Phase 2 (Severe Drought)	The SERT determines whether all requirements for assistance are being met within established channels.  Task forces continue to make assessments and reports.
The DMAC determines the drought has further subsided.	Leaving Phase 2 (Severe Drought) and returning to Phase 1 (Moderate Drought)	Task forces terminate activity and issue final reports.
The DMAC determines the drought has ended.	Leaving Phase 1 (Moderate Drought) and returning to Normal Conditions	DMAC returns to normal operations.  The Divisions of Water Resources and NCEM continue to monitor drought indicators.