



# What is

# DROUGHT

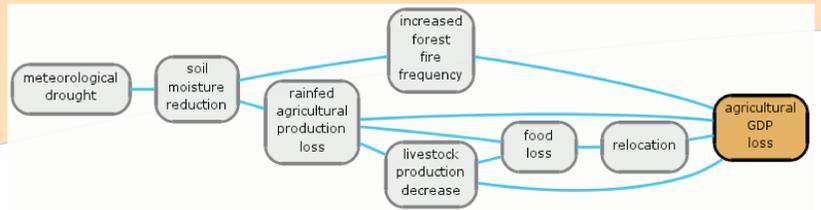


Drought is a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall resulting in a shortage of water. It is an insidious hazard of nature. It is often referred to as a "creeping phenomenon" and its impacts vary from region to region. In the most general sense, drought originates from a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time—usually a season or more—resulting in a water shortage for some activity, group, or environmental sector.

Drought also creates environmental conditions that increase the risk of other hazards such as wildfire, flash flood, and possible landslides and debris flow. In practice, drought is defined in a number of ways that reflect various perspectives and interests. Below are three commonly used definitions:

## Meteorological Drought

Meteorological drought is usually defined based on the degree of dryness (in comparison to some "normal" or average) and the duration of the dry period. Drought onset generally occurs with a meteorological drought.



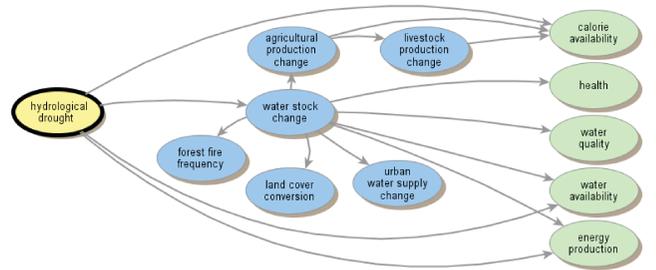
## Agricultural Drought

Agricultural drought links various characteristics of meteorological (or hydrological) drought to agricultural impacts, focusing on precipitation shortages, soil water deficits, reduced ground water or reservoir levels needed for irrigation, and so forth.



## Hydrological Drought

Hydrological drought usually occurs following periods of extended precipitation shortfalls that impact water supply (i.e., streamflow, reservoir and lake levels, ground water), potentially resulting in significant societal impacts. Because regions are interconnected by hydrologic systems, the impact of meteorological drought may extend well beyond the borders of the precipitation-deficient area.



## How to Prepare for a Drought

**Put a water rationing plan in place in the event of a water shortage.**

Serious droughts can result in water shortages that could last weeks or months. With proper rationing and conservation, however, you and your household can hold out for several weeks on stored drinking water. If you live in a drought-prone area, it would be a good idea to have a plan in place for what you'll do in the event of a drought. By drawing up a plan, you and your family can be prepared for when a drought does hit

**Stock your home with bottled water.**

Remember that each person in your home will require at least a gallon of water daily. To be properly prepared, have enough bottled water to last your entire household at least a week. This water should be used as a last resort in a drought. Use it only if drinking water gets cut off entirely.

**Install a rain catch system.**

Thousands of gallons of water fall on your property every year. Take advantage of this by harvesting some of it. You can stock this rainwater for drought-conditions by using it to water your lawn and cleaning. In the meantime, you can use it to take a good chunk out of your water bill. Installing one is easy

**Check for and repair any leaks in your home**

Leaky pipes can waste thousands of gallons of water per year. Not only will this waste precious water if a drought hits, but it will run up your water bill during normal times. Thoroughly check your home for any leaks and repair them to increase your preparedness for a drought.

**Install water-efficient appliances.**

Household appliances often use much more water than they have to. Upgrade certain appliances in your home to water-efficient versions to save money and conserve water in the event of a drought

**Turn water off when not in use.**

It is a bad habit to keep the faucet running when brushing your teeth or shaving. Instead, you'll save a lot of water by turning the faucet off while your brush or shave.

**Reuse water that would have been wasted.**

There are numerous ways that household water gets wasted. Instead of letting water flow down the drain, collect it and put it to better use.



**MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT**  
**DID YOU KNOW THAT TURNING OFF THE WATER WHILE YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH CAN SAVE MORE THAN 100 GALLONS OF WATER A MONTH?**  
**USE WATER WISELY!!!**

## What you should do before, during and after a Drought.

**What you should do Before;**

- Never pour water down a drain when it comes in handy for something else
- You should check if you have any leaks in your house because if do, you are wasting water
- Make sure your sprinklers are facing the grass so the water doesn't go onto the paved area.

**What you should do During;**

- Avoid taking baths, take short showers – turn on water only to get wet and lather and then again to rinse off.

- Clean vegetables in a pan filled with water rather than running water from the tap.
- If you wash your own car, use a shut-off nozzle that can be adjusted down to a fine spray on your hose.

**What you should do After;**

- Save water because if you don't save water, then you're in a drought again, so **SAVE WATER!!!**