

Columbia County

Emergency Management Agency

Is responsible to coordinate, monitor and manage county drought reporting and response activities.

When required, will form a Drought Task Force with representatives from ...

Police / Fire Departments
Forestry / Health / Agriculture
Water Suppliers / Red Cross
County / municipal officials

... to discuss issues and make recommendations for the common good.

Keep residents and businesses informed on drought conditions and restrictions.

Provide residents with water conservation information and tips.

Assist public and private water suppliers, when requested, to update contingency and rationing plans.

Disseminate information received from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to the appropriate County and local agencies and departments.

If warranted, establish a list of D.E.P. approved potable water haulers.



**Columbia County
E.M.A.**

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Drought Information



**Columbia
County
EMA**

Drought Watch, Warning & Emergency

Are the three drought stages under the Pennsylvania Drought Operating Plan. It is used to alert government agencies, water suppliers and the public regarding deteriorating conditions indicating the potential for future problems.



Drought declarations are based on stream flow levels, rainfall, reservoir levels, groundwater elevations and soil moisture.

Recent Rainfall in Columbia County

The average annual rainfall in Columbia County is 41 inches.

Records show that since January 1999 there have been three drought watches, two warnings and one drought emergency affecting residents in



Columbia County.

These statistics should be of particular concern to well users as it takes considerable rainfall to replenish water tables after extended dry periods.

Water Conservation

A drought watch requests that water users voluntary cut back at least 5% on their water use.

A warning requests at least a 10—15% cut back. In a drought emergency, mandatory water restrictions will be



imposed. Some painless ways you can conserve is to refrain from washing your car, take shorter showers, don't let water run when brushing your teeth, only run full wash loads and fix all faucet leaks.