

# IPSWICH WATER DEPARTMENT

## DROUGHT UPDATE

November 7, 2016

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**Drought Status:** **DROUGHT EMERGENCY**

No outdoor watering

Limit all non-essential indoor water use - Use water more wisely!

### Current Activities:

- The reservoir system and groundwater levels are beginning to show signs of improvement. Although this is good news, the situation remains serious and the full outdoor water ban remains in place.
- The residential seasonal rate structure normally switches to lower winter rates on October 1<sup>st</sup>. This year, due to continued drought conditions, the Water Commissioners have extended the summer rate through October 31<sup>st</sup>. The winter rate will become effective November 1<sup>st</sup>. The change will be seen in the December bills.
- The declaration of water supply emergency from MassDEP is still in effect. The declaration allows the Town to pump its wells in the Ipswich River Watershed beyond registered limits. This provides flexibility to manage our sources in the most effective manner. To remain in compliance with the emergency declaration, Ipswich must continue the ban on all outdoor water use, as well as continue to urge all private well users to restrict their outdoor water use.
- Discounted rain barrels are still available to Ipswich residents at Corliss Bros. for \$45!

### Emergency Declaration Clarification:

- The references in the document to endangerment of public health, safety or welfare are not in response to water quality, but water quantity. The water remains safe. The statements are to warn that public health will be compromised if the Town is unable to provide residents with a continuous supply of drinking water.
- "The Town shall have the authority to enforce these regulations through the assessment of penalties or the imposition of fines." This statement does not grant the Town authority to enforce the terms of the declaration beyond what is currently established by local regulations and by-laws.

**REMINDER:** Commercial customers are not exempt from drought requirements. Only those water use activities that are essential to conduct business are allowed.

For more information visit:

[www.ipswichma.gov](http://www.ipswichma.gov)

[www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

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### Surface Water Supply

Reservoir Capacity, Total:	91,400,000 million gallons
Usable Storage, Total:	71,400,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 8/5/16:	20,300,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 8/12/16:	20,700,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 8/19/16:	17,800,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 8/26/16:	16,000,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/02/16:	14,000,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/09/16:	12,900,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/16/16:	11,500,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/23/16:	12,300,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/30/16:	10,500,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 10/7/16:	13,900,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 10/14/16:	15,600,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 10/21/16:	13,200,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 10/28/16:	23,800,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 11/4/16:	37,700,000 million gallons

Where did last week's water come from? 74% Reservoir Water  
26% Well Water

## **WARNING**

More well water use means the amount of water supplied by Browns and Fellows Road Wells is increasing. These wells meet all primary drinking water standards, however, they do have elevated levels of Manganese.

System wide Manganese levels are currently below the health advisory levels.

With elevated Manganese levels, parents are advised to use bottled or treated water for their young children, in particular to make formula.

Winter Average Daily Demand:	0.8 million gallons per day (mgd)
Last Week's Average Daily Demand:	0.8 million gallons per day (mgd)
<b>Current Average Daily Demand:</b>	<b>0.8 million gallons per day (mgd)</b>

Days of Supply Remaining at current demand of 0.9 mgd: 42 - 150 days

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### Precipitation

2014 Total Precipitation Jan 1 - Aug 1:	29.36 inches
2015 Total Precipitation Jan 1 - Aug 1:	32.13 inches
<b>2016 Total Precipitation Jan 1 - Aug 1:</b>	<b>18.24 inches</b>

Total Precipitation Aug 1 - Aug 8:	0.20 inches
Total Precipitation Aug 9 - Aug 14:	1.05 inches
Total Precipitation Aug 15 - Aug 21:	0.90 inches
Total Precipitation Aug 22 - Aug 28:	0.00 inches
Total Precipitation Aug 29 - Sept 4:	0.00 inches
Total Precipitation Sept 5 - Sept 11:	0.54 inches
Total Precipitation Sept 12 - Sept 18:	0.30 inches
Total Precipitation Sept 19 - Sept 25:	0.20 inches
Total Precipitation Sept 26 - Oct 2:	1.46 inches
Total Precipitation Oct 3 - Oct 9:	1.85 inches
Total Precipitation Oct 10 - Oct 16:	0.00 inches
Total Precipitation Oct 17 - Oct 23:	1.40 inches
Total Precipitation Oct 24 - Oct 30:	1.80 inches
<b>Total Precipitation Oct 31 - Oct 6:</b>	<b>0.20 inches</b>

### What is the Water Department doing?

- Asking the community to share their water saving tips! Visit [www.ipswichma.gov](http://www.ipswichma.gov) and click "Community Voice" to share suggestions.
- Increasing enforcement of the water ban. One warning is issued, a subsequent violation results in shut-off of water service
- Increasing use of well water, as necessary. With reservoir levels increasing, use of surface water (Water Treatment Plant) will increase.
- Additional long term alternatives are being considered to augment our current sources
- On September 13th, the Water Department hosted a meeting with local town and state officials to discuss current drought conditions impacting the region. Those in attendance included Secretary Matthew Beaton (EOEEA), Bethany Card (DEP), Representative Brad Hill, Senator Bruce Tarr and several others.
- On October 21<sup>st</sup> Ipswich participated in a meeting to confront the drought crisis with concerned town officials from neighboring communities and state regulatory agencies. The discussion included potential regional possibilities involving one or more towns working together. All parties agreed to review the 2003 Ipswich River Watershed Action Plan and reconvene in one month to further the discussion.

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# Rain Barrel Sale!

Big discount!

\$45\*

These barrels are

- 100% recycled
- Equipped with screw lid and spigot
- Made from certified food grade plastic
- Terra-cotta color
- Great size:
  - 50 gallon capacity
  - 36 inch height
  - 23 inch diameter
- Perfect for:
  - Car washing
  - Gardening
  - Irrigation



- Save money
- Conserve water
- Ease the drought

\*Limited to one per customer

\*Available while supplies last; only at Corliss Bros.

\*Offer valid for Ipswich residents only (proof of residency is required)

Corliss Bros. Fall Hours

Sunday 9:30am—4:00pm

Monday through Saturday, 8:30am—5:00pm

Proudly sponsored by:

**JACK'S**  
RAIN BARRELS



**Corliss Bros.**  
INCORPORATED  
Garden Center and Nursery