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TOWN OF LEE E-CRIER
SPECIAL AFTERNOON EDITION
September 4, 2020

**DROUGHT
UPDATE**

Strafford County is now experiencing “Severe Drought” Conditions

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, over 90% of the state is experiencing drought. Last week, portions of the state were elevated from “moderate drought” (D1) to “severe drought” (D2), including Strafford County, Belknap County, and Grafton County. The weather outlook for this week indicates little to no measurable rainfall. The 90-day precipitation deficits by county for New Hampshire range from -3” to -5” in Strafford, Rockingham, Hillsborough, and Grafton; -2” to -3” in Merrimack, Belknap, Cheshire, Sullivan, and Carrol; and -1” to -2” in Coos.

The majority of the state is experiencing below normal to low groundwater levels. For more information, see the [New Hampshire Groundwater Level Monitoring Report](#) for August 2020.

Although municipalities in areas experiencing drought are authorized by RSA 41:11-d to implement municipal-wide lawn watering restrictions, at this time the Lee Select Board is instead strongly urging residents to refrain from watering lawns and gardens and to also practice water conservation in other ways, such as fewer/shorter showers, etc.

Hundreds of residential wells went dry during the 2016 drought, and homeowners who retained well contractors to improve their wells experienced a significant wait as a result of increased demand for services.

Please report residential well shortages using the [Residential Well Impact Survey form](#). NHDES will track well impacts so as to provide current information on drought impacts in our region.

Forecast and Outlooks:

The short term forecast calls for clear skies, day temperatures in the 70s with cooler nights. Dry and cool temperatures are anticipated to continue into next week, measurable amounts of rainfall are unlikely ([NOAA National Weather Service](#)).

The [8-14 day outlook](#) favors above normal precipitation and above normal temperatures across the state.

The [U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook](#) favors drought conditions to remain, with minimal improvement, through the month of September.