

Foundation Worksheet #1

Consider Your Needs




NATIONAL DROUGHT
MITIGATION CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA


Use this worksheet to analyze your drought preparedness and response activities and identify areas where you may wish to focus your community's or organization's exercise design efforts.


1. Reflect on the effects of past droughts. Drought impacts nearly all sectors of society. Taking time to reflect on the effects can help ensure that your preparedness and response actions address actual rather than perceived needs. Sources of information include:


- Impacts captured by the National Drought Mitigation Center's Drought Impacts Toolkit (droughtimpacts.unl.edu)
- Local history obtained from your local water utility, newspaper records, library clipping files and other holdings, the historical society, and residents' recent experiences and past memories.


Using the tables below, identify whether the listed drought impact is relevant to your community and, if so, the specific stakeholders that are affected. Your responses will help you set your goals, define the scope, guide the scenario development, and drive discussions during the exercise.


Category	Drought Impact	 those that apply	Individuals, groups, or businesses affected
Crop production	Less water for irrigation		
	Reduced yield		
	Insect infestation		
	Crop disease		
	Plant stress		
	Added well, dam, pipe, etc.		
	Increased irrigation		
	Erosion		


Category	Drought Impact	 those that apply	Individuals, groups, or businesses affected
Livestock production	Reduced pasture, forage		
	More invasive species (plants)		
	Decreased stock weights		
	Animal stress		
	Mortality		
	Reduced grazing on public lands		
	Hauled water		
	Sold livestock		
	Erosion		
	Reduced pasture, forage		


Category	Drought Impact	 those that apply	Individuals, groups, or businesses affected
Municipal Water Supply	Low or dry wells		
	Reduced hydropower		
	Water quality issues		
	Hauled water		
	Broken pipelines		
	Moving pumps, intakes		
	Conservation education		
	Water rate change		
	Voluntary conservation		
	Mandatory conservation		


Category	Drought Impact	 those that apply	Individuals, groups, or businesses affected
Public Health	Declines in air quality due to dust, pollen, or smoke		
	More vector-borne disease		
	Special meetings or activities held		
	Ceremonies or festivals cancelled		
	Less food for subsistence		
	Garden needs more water or yields less		
	People relocating		
	Stress (mental health issues)		

Category	Drought Impact	 those that apply	Individuals, groups, or businesses affected
Households	Reduced outdoor water use		
	Reduced outdoor water use		
	Increased lawn, landscape watering		
	Dry lawns		
	Cracked foundations		
	Increased power bills		
	Increased use of cistern, rainwater		
	Low or dry wells		

Category	Drought Impact	 those that apply	Individuals, groups, or businesses affected
Fire	Increased fires		
	More intense fires		
	More fire risk		
	Property damage		
	Park or road closure		
	Burn or fireworks bans		

Category	Drought Impact	 those that apply	Individuals, groups, or businesses affected
Business and Industry	Landscaping business down		
	Lawn implement sales down		
	Barge traffic curtailed		
	Reduced sales		
	Reduced production due to lack of water		
	Reduced workforce		
	Closed business or bankruptcy		

Category	Drought Impact	 those that apply	Individuals, groups, or businesses affected
Recreation and Tourism	Public recreation areas closed		
	Reduced water activities		
	Less-appealing landscape		
	Hunting or fishing reduced		
	Shorter ski season		
	Increase in artificial snow making		
	Reduced lift-ticket sales, visits		

Category	Drought Impact	 those that apply	Individuals, groups, or businesses affected
Forestry	Change in timing of plant growth		
	No new season growth (no new buds)		
	Leaves discolored, shriveled, burnt		
	Dead branch tips and/or dead top		
	Leaf/needle drop or sparse canopy		
	Dead trees		
	Fewer saplings or reduced survival		
	Reduced diameter growth (compressed rings)		

Category	Drought Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> those that apply	Individuals, groups, or businesses affected
Wildlife	Less food		
	Less/warmer water		
	Invasive plant/animal species		
	Wildlife disease or mortality		
	Change in migration		
	Wildlife foraging near people		
	Reduced streamflow		
	Water quality change		
	Decreased births		

Category	Drought Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> those that apply	Individuals, groups, or businesses affected
Other			

2. Review the plans that you have in place to prepare for and respond to drought.

Examples include:

- Drought Plan
- Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan
- Water Plan

a. Assess how well these plans address the impacts identified in steps 2 and 3.

Yes/No	Question	Notes on related issues and challenges
	Do these plans include actions that can be taken prior to the next drought to help avoid negative effects and losses?	
	Do these plans include a strategy for identifying emerging drought conditions and assessing its effects?	
	Do these plans include actions or assistance to help those affected by the drought cope with its impacts and losses? If so, were they effective during previous droughts?	
	Do you have adequate financial and human resources to carry out these actions and provide assistance?	
	Do these plans include strategies for coordinating programs and response efforts?	
	Do these plans include a strategy for keeping the public informed of current conditions and response actions?	

b. Consider potential challenges that could arise when implementing these plans during a future drought event.

Yes/No	Question	Notes on related issues and challenges
	<p>Have any of the plans been activated during drought?</p> <p>If so, what challenges arose? For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflicts among water users • Coordination of response efforts • Communication with the public and/or media coverage • Lack of information 	
	<p>Have any of the plans been updated since the most recent drought?</p>	
	<p>Do the agencies and personnel identified in the plans have the capacity, experience, or training needed to carry out their roles?</p>	
	<p>Do you have adequate financial and human resources to carry out these actions and provide assistance?</p>	
	<p>Do these plans include strategies for coordinating programs and response efforts?</p>	
	<p>Do these plans include a strategy for keeping the public informed of current conditions and response actions?</p>	