

The persistent below normal rainfall and resulting hydrologic impacts in the 9 counties led the SC Drought Response Committee to issue the incipient drought declaration. The incipient drought declaration is followed by increasing levels of severity to moderate, severe and extreme status.

The Edisto and Salkehatchie River Basins have been the driest overall experiencing persistent low streamflow conditions over much of the past two to three months, reported Scott Harder, S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Hydrologist. This was the main driver for declaring an incipient drought for counties in these basins.

According to David Baize, Assistant Bureau Chief for the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control's Bureau of Water, there have been no reports of water supply problems statewide. Agricultural representatives on the call reported scattered agricultural impacts due to the drought, but it has been highly variable. Darryl Jones with the S.C. Forestry Commission reported, "Wildfire occurrence has been light this summer, but as the growing season ends and fuels begin to cure, fire activity is likely to increase. In areas where drought is developing, wildfires may be more difficult to control and spread faster as vegetation dries out."

Drought Response Committee Chairman Ken Rentiers stated, "The Committee will continue to monitor the situation closely and if conditions deteriorate. DNR will reconvene the committee as needed.

DNR protects and manages South Carolina's natural resources by making wise and balanced decisions for the benefit of the state's natural resources and its people. Find out more about DNR at [the DNR Web site](#).

## Drought Status Table

Current Drought Status by County				
Normal	Incipient	Moderate	Severe	Extreme
County Status	County Status	County Status	County Status	County Status
<b>ABBEVILLE</b> Normal	<b>AIKEN</b> Incipient	<b>ALLENDALE</b> Incipient	<b>ANDERSON</b> Normal	<b>BAMBERG</b> Incipient
<b>BARNWELL</b> Incipient	<b>BEAUFORT</b> Normal	<b>BERKELEY</b> Normal	<b>CALHOUN</b> Normal	<b>CHARLESTON</b> Normal
<b>CHEROKEE</b> Normal	<b>CHESTER</b> Normal	<b>CHESTERFIELD</b> Normal	<b>CLARENDON</b> Normal	<b>COLLETON</b> Incipient
<b>DARLINGTON</b> Normal	<b>DILLON</b> Normal	<b>DORCHESTER</b> Normal	<b>EDGEFIELD</b> Incipient	<b>FAIRFIELD</b> Normal
<b>FLORENCE</b> Normal	<b>GEORGETOWN</b> Normal	<b>GREENVILLE</b> Normal	<b>GREENWOOD</b> Normal	<b>HAMPTON</b> Incipient
<b>HORRY</b> Normal	<b>JASPER</b> Normal	<b>KERSHAW</b> Normal	<b>LANCASTER</b> Normal	<b>LAURENS</b> Normal
<b>LEE</b> Normal	<b>LEXINGTON</b> Incipient	<b>MARION</b> Normal	<b>MARLBORO</b> Normal	<b>MCCORMICK</b> Normal
<b>NEWBERRY</b> Normal	<b>OCONEE</b> Normal	<b>ORANGEBURG</b> Incipient	<b>PICKENS</b> Normal	<b>RICHLAND</b> Normal
<b>SALUDA</b> Normal	<b>SPARTANBURG</b> Normal	<b>SUMTER</b> Normal	<b>UNION</b> Normal	<b>WILLIAMSBURG</b> Normal
<b>YORK</b> Normal				