

Drought Stage & Water Leaks Progress Update

October 20, 2023

Drought Stage: **Stage 2**

Restrictions: **Mandatory**

Declared: **8/27/2023**

Duration: **7-weeks**

The demand for the water treatment and distribution system continues to increase due to customers using more water and increased water leaks. Record-setting temperatures and lack of rainfall contribute to drying out the soil, causing significant ground shifting. This results in extreme pressure on the City's water system.

[**Drought Map**](#)

Water Leak Progress as of Oct. 20, 2023

Active leaks prior to June 1	<100
Contractors in use prior to June 1	4
Active leaks since June 1	>500
Weeks with ~500 new leaks reported	7 (as of 10/13/23)
Contractors in use as of 10/20/2023	12
Repairs completed since 6/1/2023	~5,630
City Crew Repairs	~3,190
Contractor Repairs	~2,440
Emergency Purchase Orders for Contractors	~\$49M
311 Calls for Water Leaks (June 1 – October 20)	23,050
Estimated Cost of City crew overtime (June 9 – October 20)	~\$1.5M
Estimated cost to treat unaccounted water loss (June & July 2023)	~\$1.27M

Note: Unaccounted water loss is calculated by taking total treated water produced less: water billed to customers, water used by City departments, an estimate of HFD usage, and only incremental costs of chemicals and electricity are included.

Prioritizing Leak Repairs and Timeline

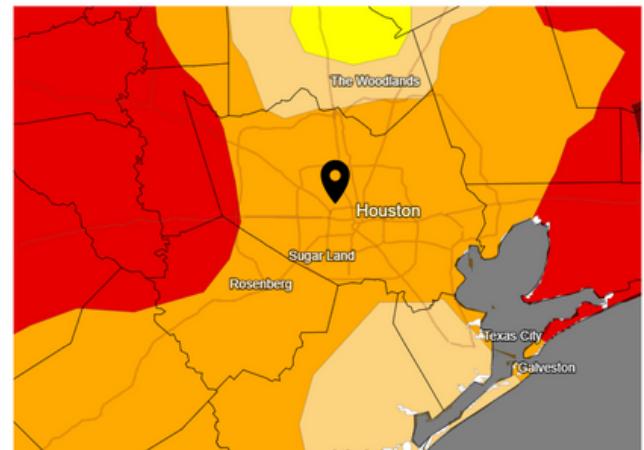
Health care/emergency facilities, schools and large areas

Major leaks (gushing/geyser)

Minor leaks 2 to 5 weeks

Emergency
Emergency
2 to 5 weeks

U.S. Drought Monitor



Drought & Dryness Categories

	% of Harris County
D0 - Abnormally Dry	0%
D1 - Moderate Drought	2.40%
D2 - Severe Drought	90.62%
D3 - Extreme Drought	6.98%
D4 - Exceptional Drought	0%
Total Area in Drought (D1-D4)	100.00%

Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA
Data Valid: 10/17/23

Drought.gov



Long-Term Replacement Program

Reducing the Risk of Future Water Leaks

The long-term strategy is to consistently fund and implement a small-diameter replacement program over the next 20 years. Current design and construction activities are summarized below.

Infrastructure Replacement Progress

Number of Projects in Design	21
Total Amount of Design Fees	\$13M
Total Miles in Design	91
	<i>Anticipated Bid: FY24- FY26</i>
Number of Projects in Construction	2
Total Amount in Construction	\$9.3M
Total Miles in Construction	6

