



# Drought Information Statement for Eastern/Central VA, NE NC and Lower MD Eastern Shore

## Valid December 5, 2024

Issued By: NWS Wakefield, VA

### Contact Information:

- This product will be updated December 19, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/AKQ/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Questions or comments can be sent to [jonathan.mcgee@noaa.gov](mailto:jonathan.mcgee@noaa.gov)

- PORTIONS OF THE LOWER MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE ARE NOW EXPERIENCING EXTREME DROUGHT (D3) CONDITIONS
- SEVERE DROUGHT (D2) COVERS THE REMAINDER OF THE VIRGINIA AND LOWER MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE AND THE NORTHERN NECK
- ALL OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN VIRGINIA AND NORTHEAST NORTH CAROLINA ARE NOW IN AT LEAST MODERATE DROUGHT (D1) STATUS



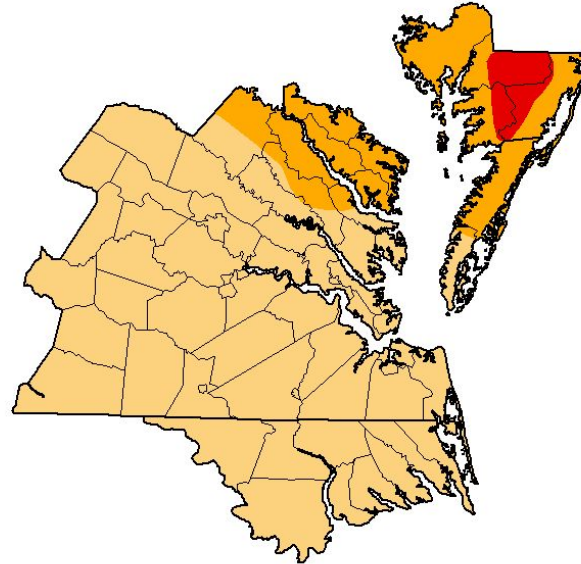


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Portions of Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset County in Maryland.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):** The remainder of Lower MD and Accomack County on the VA Eastern Shore and the Northern Neck of VA.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** All remaining counties in central and eastern Virginia and northeast North Carolina.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Wakefield, VA WFO



**December 3, 2024**

*(Released Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024)*

Valid 7 a.m. EST

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.00	100.00	100.00	20.00	2.81	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <small>11-26-2024</small>	0.00	100.00	52.74	20.00	2.81	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <small>09-03-2024</small>	76.78	23.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <small>01-01-2024</small>	82.11	17.89	2.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <small>10-01-2024</small>	83.76	16.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <small>12-05-2023</small>	20.16	79.84	40.10	5.17	0.00	0.00

### Intensity:



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

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Western Regional Climate Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

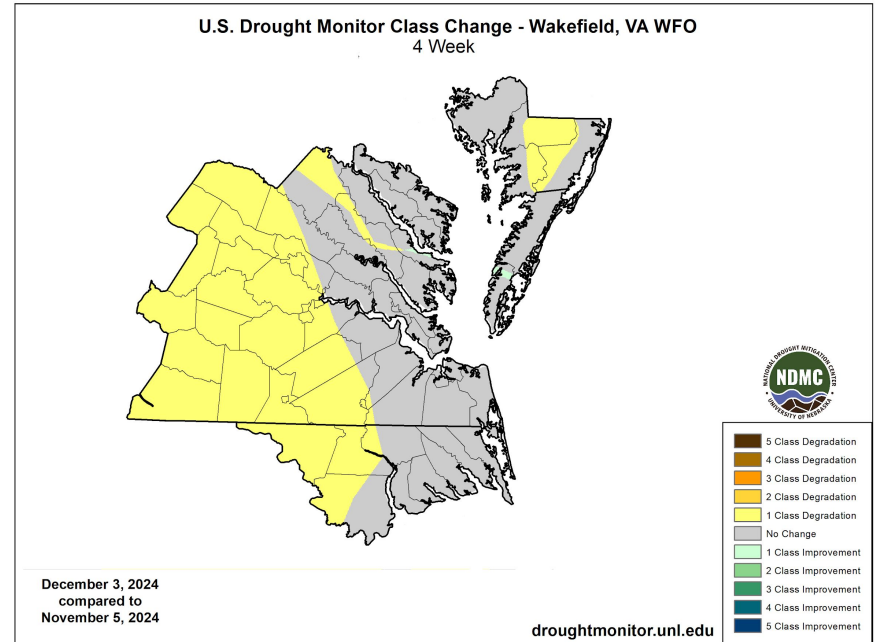
National Weather Service  
Wakefield, VA



# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to Latest [4-week change map](#)

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - **Drought Worsened:** One category of deterioration in drought conditions occurred over central and eastern VA, mainly west of I-95, and across interior northeast NC. Additionally, a one category deterioration occurred over portions of the lower MD Eastern Shore.
  - **No Change:** Drought conditions remained the same across the remainder of the area.

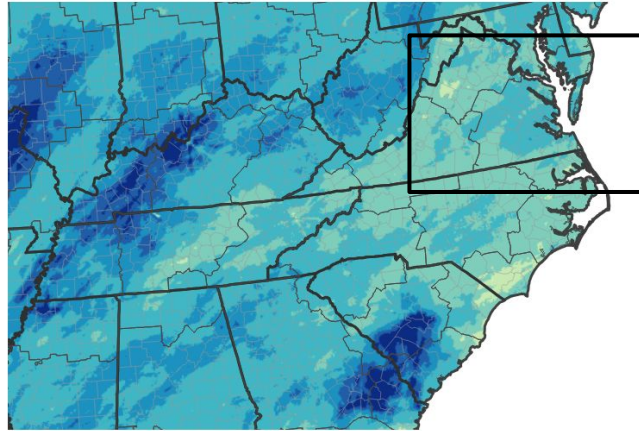




# Precipitation

- Well below normal precipitation has been observed during the past 30 days over the majority of the region.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

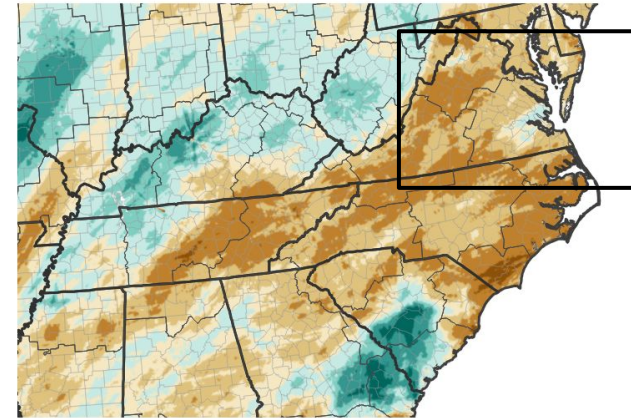


Inches of Precipitation

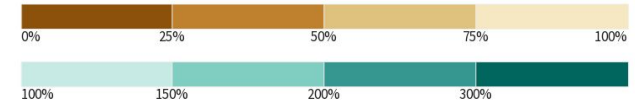


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/04/24

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/04/24







# Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- River streamflows and subsurface water levels have mostly continued to drop over the past few weeks. Below normal to much-below-normal streamflow levels are found across the York, Rappahannock and Potomac River basins in central and eastern Virginia and also across the lower Maryland Eastern Shore.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- There is an above normal wildfire risk for all of the region for the month of December.

## Mitigation Actions

- State of Virginia continues the drought watch for much of eastern Virginia.
- State of Maryland continues the drought warning for the Eastern Shore.
- A drought advisory is in effect for all of northeast North Carolina.

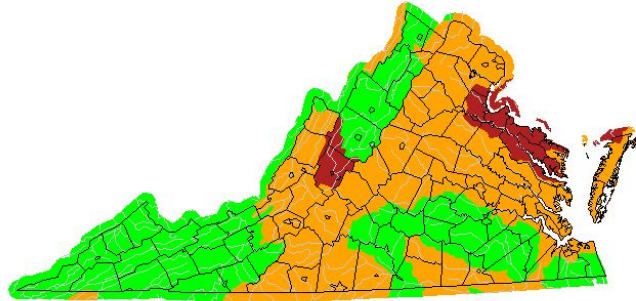




# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Below to much-below-normal streamflows are currently observed across the VA/MD Eastern Shore and the Potomac, Rappahannock and York River basins.
- Below normal streamflows also extend into the James River Basin and portions of the Chowan River basin.

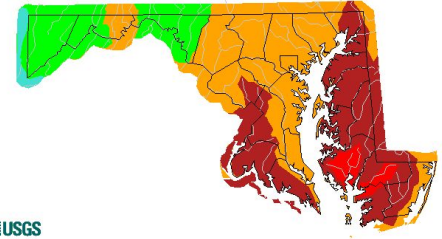
Hednesday, December 04, 2024



USGS

Virginia

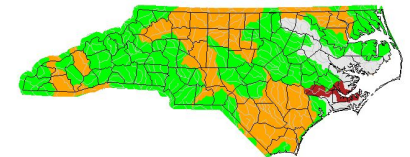
Hednesday, December 04, 2024



USGS

MD

Hednesday, December 04, 2024



USGS

NC

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 12/04/2024

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

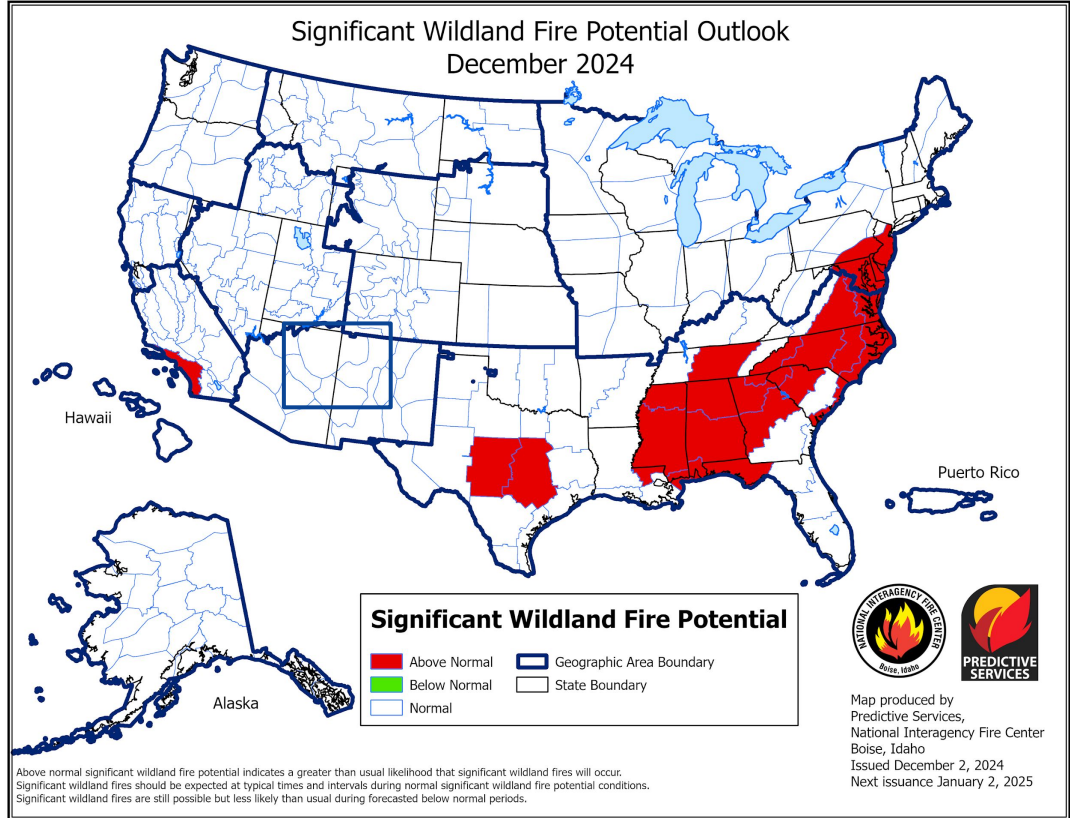




# Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- There is an above normal risk of significant wildfire activity across much of the mid-Atlantic during December.

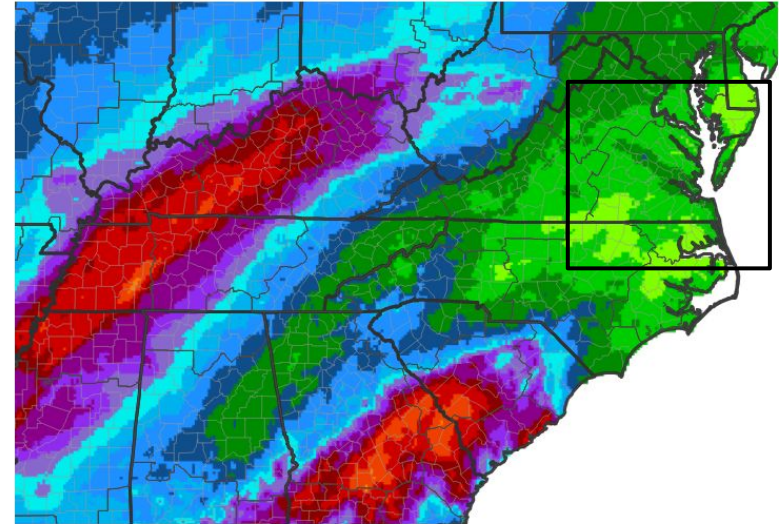




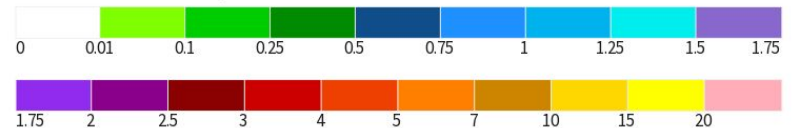
# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Although most places will see light precipitation over the next week, significant precipitation causing improvement to the drought conditions is unlikely. Most places will see less than 0.50" of rain for the next 7 days.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for November 6, 2024–November 13, 2024



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 11/06/24





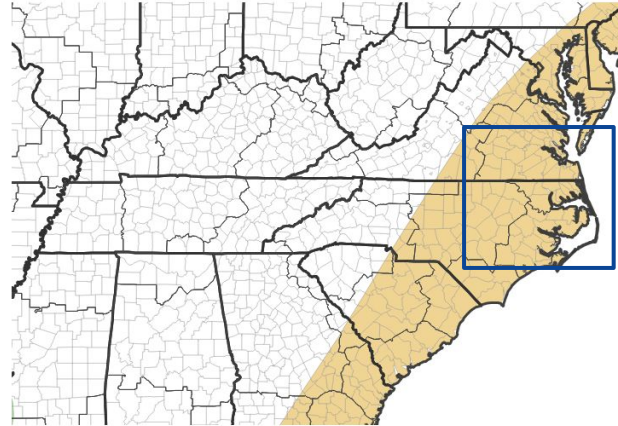


# Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Below normal precipitation is favored during December.
- Below normal temperatures are favored during December.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for December 1, 2024–December 31, 2024



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



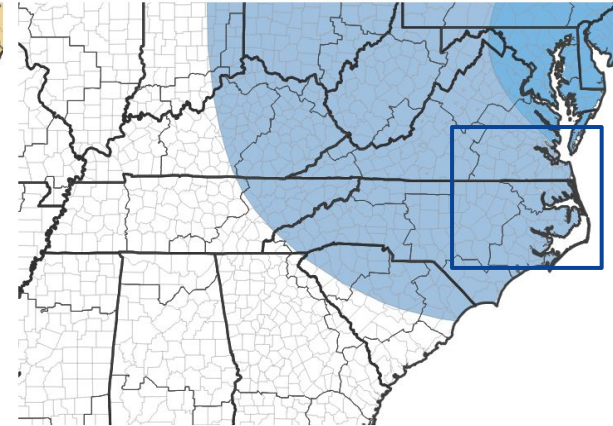
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 11/30/24

Monthly Temperature Outlook for December 1, 2024–December 31, 2024



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 11/30/24



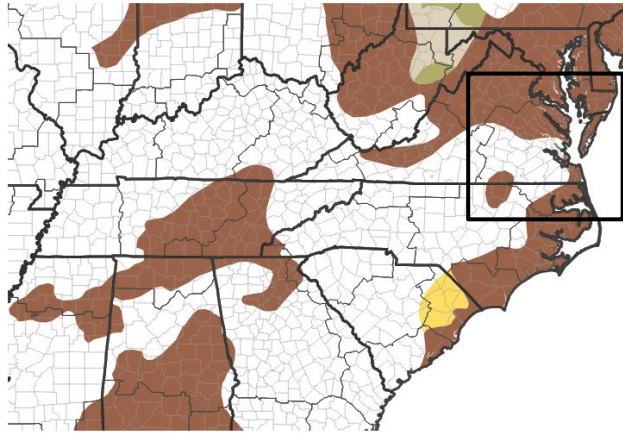


# Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- During December, drought conditions are expected to persist over much of the region.
- Throughout the winter, drought conditions are generally expected to persist across the region.

**1-Month Drought Outlook for December 1, 2024–December 31, 2024**



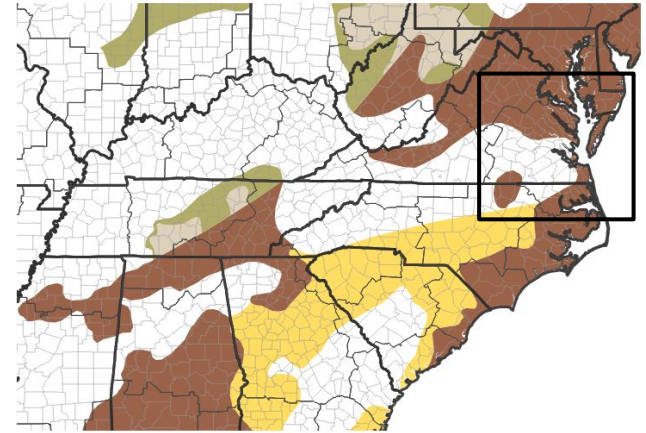
Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 11/30/24

**Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for November 30, 2024–February 28, 2025**



Drought Is Predicted To...



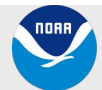
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 11/30/24

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Wakefield, VA