The State of New Jersey is in Drought Watch as persistent dry and hot conditions continue to stress water supplies throughout the state. If conditions do not improve, declaration of a drought warning or a drought emergency with mandatory water use restrictions may become necessary.

**SIMPLE TIPS TO SAVE WATER THIS SUMMER**

- Avoid recreational toys that require a constant stream of water.
- Use 30-50% less water with drip irrigation and micro-sprays compared to sprinklers.
- Water flowers and landscaping with water harvested in a rain barrel connected to a downspout.
- Use water from dehumidifiers and air conditioners to water your plants.
- Use native plants that need less water.
- Group plants together based on water needs.
- If you have a pool, purchase a water saving filter.
- Cover your pool when not in use to reduce evaporation rates.
- Raise your lawnmower blade to at least 3 inches to promote deeper grass roots which hold more water.
- Only water when needed; in NJ most landscapes need only 1 inch of water per week. This often comes from dew and rainfall.

**With the continued dry conditions, there is an increase in fire risk.**

See Back Page For Dry Weather Safety Tips.
**DRI Y WEATHER SAFETY**

**OUTDOOR COOKING**
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.
- Avoid placing the grill on dry grass or other plant material. A stray spark could easily start a fire.
- Never leave an outdoor charcoal or gas grill unattended. Flames can become uncontrollable and start a large fire.
- Keep grills clean by removing grease or fat buildup.
- Regularly check propane grills for gas leaks. If a leak is found, have a professional service the product before using it again.
- When finished with charcoal grilling, let the coals completely cool and dispose of them in a metal container.

**FIREWORKS**
- Do not use fireworks on or near dry vegetation or combustible materials.
- Be cautious when lighting fireworks when conditions are windy. The wind could blow a burning spark and set another area on fire.
- Before discarding devices, be sure to douse them thoroughly with water.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry area to prevent an accidental ignition.
- Supervise children closely when using fireworks.
- Never light more than one firework at a time, and never attempt to re-light one that did not ignite completely.
- If a firework device ignites a fire, contact the local fire department or 911 immediately. Do not attempt to extinguish a large fire.

**CIGARETTES AND VEHICLES**
- Never throw a lit cigarette out the window of a vehicle. It could land on dry grass or be blown into dry vegetation and start a fire.
- Never walk away and leave a cigarette burning. Always use an ash tray.
- Never park your vehicle on dry grass or leaves.