

2019 Dry Season Climate Outlook for Trinidad and Tobago Key Messages

Key Terms: Harsh Dry Season, Conserve and Use Water Wisely, Every Drop Counts, Have a Water Plan, Have a Heat Plan

Highlights

- A hot and harsh 2019 dry season is forecasted - One when every drop of rainfall and water counts. One when rainfall will be scarce as gold.
- Below average rainfall, leading to much drier than usual conditions, is expected for January to March 2019. Below average rainfall in most areas of the country is expected for the rest of the season, even though a few areas are expected to get the typical small amounts of dry season rainfall.
- Also, both day and night temperatures are expected to be much warmer than average. Several days are likely to be very hot days with a number of hot spells expected. (A hot day is a day when temperatures reach or exceed 34°C. A hot spell is a period of consecutive hot days).
- When combined, much drier and hotter conditions can lead to drought or drought-like conditions. This increases the chance for bush, grass, forest and landfill fires.
- An increase in the number of rough and hazardous sea events are also expected.

The Met. Service Advises:

Have a water plan

- Start conserving water now. Reduce your personal, household, and work space water usage now;
- Have a plan to store water safely to avoid the spread of disease from mosquitoes breeding;
- Have a water backup plan that includes storing water to last 3 -7 days;
- Find innovative ways such as collecting condensed water from your air condition to use for watering plants, washing your cars and other such activities;
- Wash less often and wash larger loads at one time;
- Use water wisely. Turn off taps. Take shorter showers;
- Lack of water affects sanitation. Have a sanitation plan. Invest in a waterless hand sanitiser.

Have a heat plan for the heat season (February to April)

- Heat on extremely hot days can be harmful to your health. Persons with heart, respiratory and serious health problems are more at risk during extremely hot conditions as heat can make these conditions worse.
- Have a heat season plan: for babies, elderly and socially isolated persons, young children and young livestock, all of whom are especially at risk;
- Plan to listen to the Met. Service weather forecast so that you know if a hot day or hot spell is on the way;
- Plan ahead to keep cool, drink plenty water, take care of others.

Have a bush fire and air quality plan

- Reduce or cut-off lighting outdoor fires;
- Have a plan to cope with poor air quality due to smoke (remain indoors, keep doors and windows shut, use air conditioners on the recirculation setting so outside air will not be moved inside, keep your windows and vents closed while driving).