The primary mission of government in an emergency is to protect the lives and property of its citizens. Regardless of how well all systems are organized to provide assistance, the unpredictable nature of drought and the time and space factors involved dictate that the local jurisdiction must be prepared to cope with the initial impact of a drought on its own.

Recognizing that routine emergency services will, by their nature, be inadequate to cope with the effects of a drought, it is the duty of local government to provide for the emergency expansion of its survival capabilities within the limits of available resources.

This Plan has been developed to provide a sound basis for drought-oriented emergency programmes and to establish the organizational and operational concepts and procedures designed to minimize the impact of this hazard.

Emergency duties and responsibilities have been assigned, to the extent possible, to agencies having the same or similar responsibilities in the ODPM EMP’s Basic Plan. Where necessary, agencies should develop specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) explaining which tasks need to be performed and how they will be accomplished in a drought situation.

This incident annex has been developed in consonance with cited authorities that currently exist. Specific details and background from these sources are usually referenced rather than included. Agencies using this annex should, therefore, become familiar with the provisions of the various laws covering the Emergency Services.

It is well understood that being prepared to recover from the effects of a drought requires constant development and revision of emergency procedures, training of staff and auxiliary personnel, and exercises to test this aspect of the ODPM EMP. This process and the results of actual emergency response operations will allow refining this Plan, its associated SOPs and supporting plans so that we are as well prepared as possible to cope with drought effects.

Purpose: To define a concept of operations and the duties and responsibilities of the Emergency Support Function (ESF) agencies, specific to a drought and to more efficiently and effectively reduce losses and address public health and safety issues affecting the residents of, and visitors to, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
The Prime Minister
a) Directs implementation of the ODPM EMP through the Minister with responsibilities
b) Declares a Drought or State of Emergency
c) Enlists plans for water allocation by public and private water users
d) Places a ban on water use by public or private water users for specified purposes
e) Encourages water rationing programmes by public water users for specified purposes
f) Designates the Minister with responsibilities for DRM to chair the ODPM’s meetings

g) Issues supplemental declarations and orders
h) Requests external assistance, as required

The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM)
a) Directs activation of the National EOC, if necessary
b) Monitors and evaluates the forecasts together with the Meteorological Service.
c) Completes the checklist actions for Command and Control, Operations, and Public Information

d) Implements the EMP and the required annexes
e) Informs the line ministry, Ministry of National Security, of protective action and safety recommendations
f) Conducts conference calls and assessments on drought conditions

g) Coordinates all emergency support function resources
h) Deploys emergency management liaison personnel to local EOCs, to assist with response and recovery operations, if necessary
i) Assists in procurement and coordinates the distribution of necessary water supplies to the public
j) Assists in the coordinating of media information and keeping the public informed.

WASA
a) As the custodian of Trinidad and Tobago’s water resources, WASA is responsible for regulatory matters pertaining to well drilling, surface-water quality standards, and water allocation.

Water Resources Agency
(To be added)

WASA
b) Water conservation measures and drought best management practices should be

c) A drought management plan should be developed

Prime Minister’s Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)
All ESF agencies will perform their normal emergency response functions as indicated in the ESF section of the ODPM EMP. Primary agencies will also ensure that these activities are accomplished:

- Review emergency plans specific to drought conditions
- Support drought operations and ensure compliance with any restrictions
- Ensure 24-7 availability. If activated, ESF representatives responding to the
- NEC should be knowledgeable of their resources and have authority to coordinate the release of these resources
- Remind agency personnel in the field to follow safety procedures for their responsibilities

Continuity of Government
The Prime Minister is in control throughout and has delegated authority to coordinate state resources to the ODPM CEO through the line Minister.

a) Once activated, the NEC will coordinate state resources for preparedness, response, and recovery operations. Recommended actions will be directed through ESF representatives to the responsible responding agencies.

- Agencies will establish procedures to protect personnel, vital records, and equipment.

- Primary and secondary facilities will be identified by each agency to relocate for

- Each agency should have a Continuity of Government (COG) Plan.

Administration and Logistics
a) Each agency response is responsible for its own administration and logistics
b) Each agency should develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) and implementation checklists to ensure that actions in this plan are performed in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.

- Each agency response is responsible for maintaining lists of emergency resources to include personnel, supplies, and equipment.

- Each agency response should maintain detailed logs and financial records directly related to the event. These records shall be submitted to ODPM upon request.

- ODPM will prepare an after action report describing the situation and response actions of national, local, and private organizations.

- Based on after action reports and critiques, each agency should update their annexes, plans, SOPs, to facilitate preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

Authority and References
ODPM to supply any relevant pieces of legislation in this section

- Turf Watering: Use of potable water for turf watering should be limited to between the hours of 5 pm and 9 am by any efficient means and only for newly sodded or seeded areas. Newly sodded or seeded means planted less than one year

- Agricultural Watering

- Use of potable water for washing of outdoor plants should be limited to new plantings or newly sodded or seeded areas. Newly sodded or seeded means planted less than one year

- Use of potable water for turf and shrubbery should be limited to the hours of 5 pm and 9 am

- Water conservation measures and drought best management practices should be used to reduce water use

- Other recommendations include:

- Irrigation systems should be turned off between the hours of 5 pm and 9 am

- Use of potable water for turf and shrubbery should be limited to the hours of 5 pm and 9 am

- Use of potable water for washing of private vehicles is permitted only by the use of a bucket and a hose with a flow-control nozzle

- Use of potable water for washing of paved surfaces is prohibited, except for sanitation

- Heat Watch and Warnings

- Drought Watch

- Drought Warning

- Drought Emergency

- The potential for drought suggests that voluntary water demand reductions be requested

- An imminent (but not certain) drought recommends increased water demand reductions (though still on a voluntary basis)

- With declining water conditions, there is no alternative but to declare a state of emergency with mandatory water use restrictions

- Mission: to work cooperatively with all critical stakeholders to ensure that

- New potential usages include:

- Use of potable water for washing of outdoor plants should be limited to new plantings or newly sodded or seeded areas. Newly sodded or seeded means planted less than one year

- Use of potable water for washing of private vehicles is permitted only by the use of a bucket and a hose with a flow-control nozzle

- Use of potable water for washing of paved surfaces is prohibited, except for sanitation