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***Planning and responding to  
drought in the UK***

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- environmental actions



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# Water company drought plans

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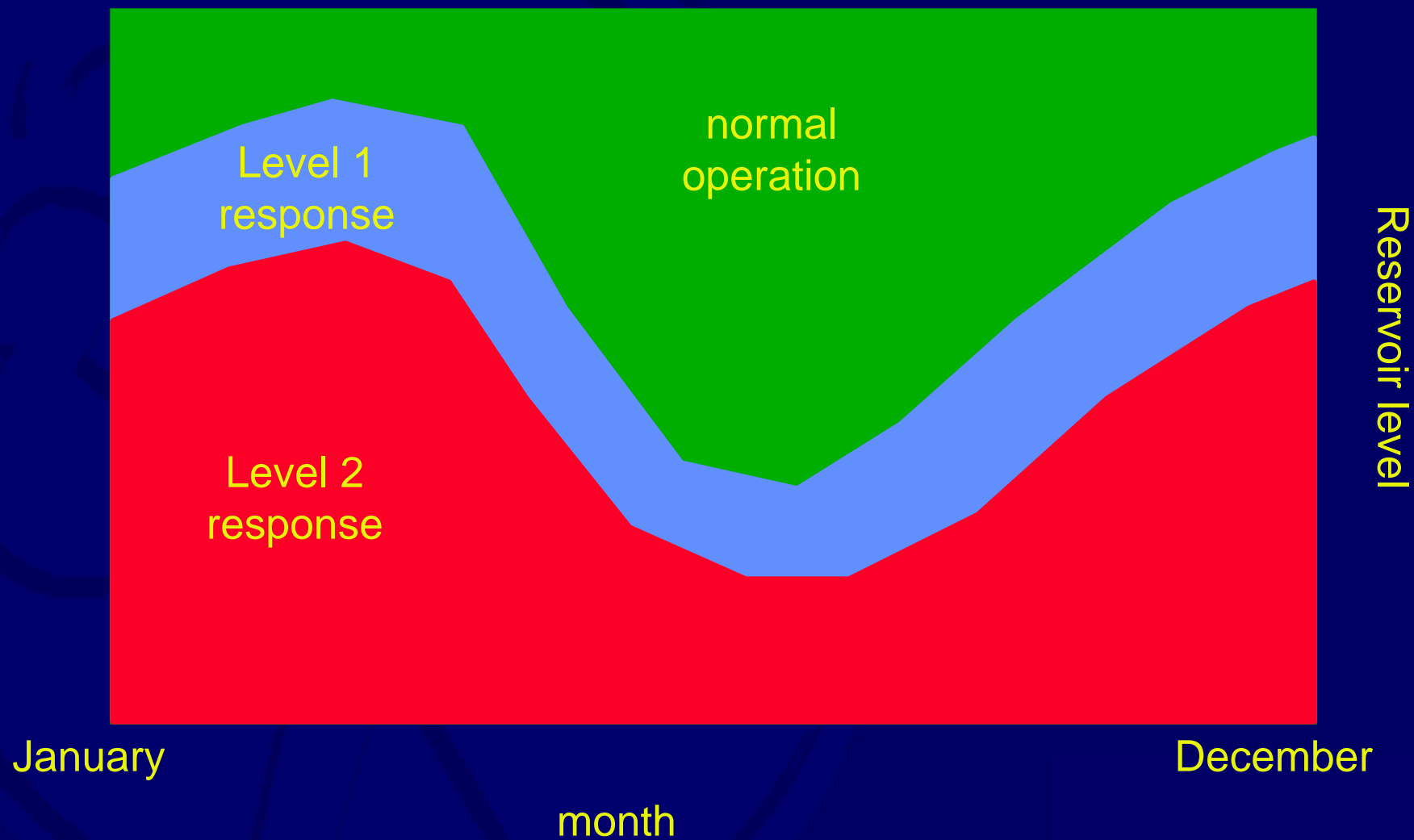


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# 1 Control curves



# Example control curves



## 2 Actions

- Phased, as drought progresses: for example:
  - hosepipe bans
  - non-damaging additional abstractions
  - non-essential use bans
    - car washes, ornamental fountains
  - further additional abstractions
  - ultimately, rota cuts and standpipes



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# 3 Management structure

- Identifies:
  - who takes decisions
  - how decisions are made
  - how resources are to be managed
- Very important component of drought plan



## 4 Communications plan

- How the water company will communicate:
  - at different times in droughts
  - with customers
  - with the media (television, radio, newspapers)
  - with regulators and Government



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# 5 Environmental assessments

- Where locations for additional abstraction are identified:
  - baseline environmental monitoring
  - assessment of impact of additional abstraction
  - mitigation measures



# How we regulate drought plans

- England and Wales:
  - Next plans will be submitted to Government in 2005 / 2006
  - Plans will be published
  - Reviewed by Environment Agency
  - Reports to Ministers available to public
- Scotland - similar but without statutory basis



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# Environmental actions



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# Environmental actions

- Fish rescues
- Oxygenation
- Stopping abstraction to restore flows
- Additional releases from reservoirs
- Environment Agency has operational drought plans - available at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)



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# Summary

- Planning for drought is essential
- Structured drought plans allow options to be investigated and evaluated in advance
- Communication with customers is essential



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