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## 2025 Drought Bulletin

Oct. 9, 2025 | Issue 9

### Okanagan raised to unprecedented Drought Level 4


Cool evenings and crisp fall air are unfortunately not enough to counteract months of warm temperatures and below-normal precipitation. The province has just raised the Okanagan to **Drought Level 4**—an unprecedented and critical level change for this time of year.


In 2023, the Okanagan did sit at Level 4 in October but that was a drop down from a Level 5, not an increase of level this late in the season.

Today's rating is also a stark and dramatic shift from the Drought Level 0 issued just seven weeks ago (Aug. 21, 2025). At that time, the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) raised the alarm that the drought levels being issued were not reflective of conditions on the ground. This current level is more reflective of the on-the-ground conditions ONA has been observing all season. Click the link to read the [Okanagan Nation Alliance's letter](#) sharing their concerns with the new drought rating system.



#### What This Means Now:

 **Ecosystems at Risk:** While many residents and farmers have stopped watering, critically low river and creek levels continue to create significant challenges for fish migration and local aquatic ecosystems.

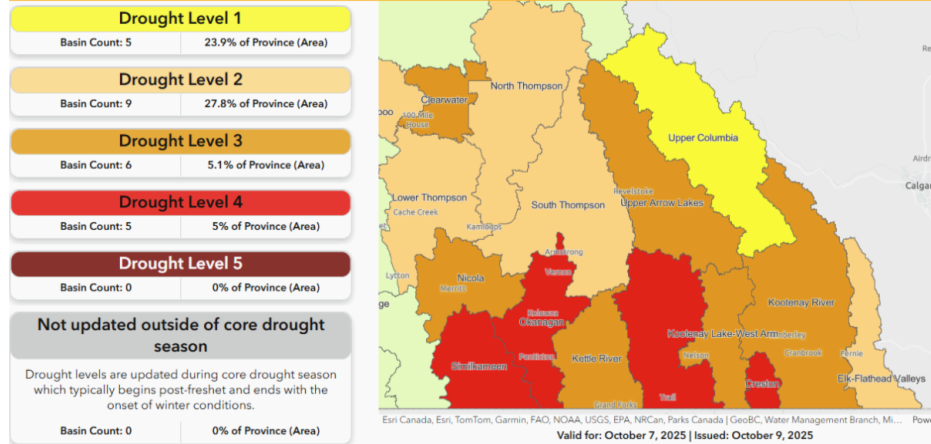
 **Extreme Weather Impact:** The drought was intensified by an unusual and intense September heatwave, which saw multiple days over 30°C—a rarity for the month—coupled with record-low rainfall.

With the Okanagan now at Level 4, it is vital to continue practicing water conservation. Every drop we save right now directly supports our most vulnerable fish and aquatic life.

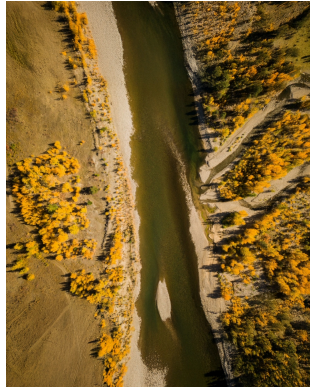
Seasonal forecasts suggest a promising turn toward wetter conditions for the fall, but until then, our water resources remain critically challenged.

#### Regional Drought Outlook - The Okanagan is at a **LEVEL 4**

The B.C. government updated the definition of drought levels for 2025, while maintaining the same six-level rating scale. [Read more about that here.](#)



[Visit the BC Drought Portal Here](#)



## Conditions outside the valley remain historically dry as well

Conditions remain challenging in neighbouring regions, with the Similkameen and parts of the Kootenays also at **Drought Level 4**. Many streamflow stations on the Similkameen continue to record their lowest values ever for this time of year.

## Local Watering Restrictions

Remember, the most important thing you can do is follow your local watering restrictions.

Below, we've provided a list of links to help you find your local restrictions. If your community isn't listed below, you can find a full list of water providers in the Okanagan at [MakeWaterWork.ca](#).

Location	Current watering restrictions	Learn more
<b>Greater Vernon Area</b>	<b>Normal</b> — Up to three days a week as per your address, no watering on Sundays, no sprinklers between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.	<a href="#">Visit the Greater Vernon Water Restrictions page here.</a>
<b>Kelowna</b>	<b>Normal</b> — Up to three days a week as per your address, no watering on Mondays, no sprinklers between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.	<a href="#">Visit the City of Kelowna Water Restrictions page here.</a>
<b>Lake Country</b>	<b>Stage 1</b> — Up to three days a week, no sprinklers between 6 a.m. and midnight.	<a href="#">Visit the District of Lake Country's Water Conservation Page here.</a>
<b>West Kelowna</b>	<b>Stage 2</b> — Even numbered addresses water Saturday and Tuesday, odd numbered addresses water Sunday and Wednesday, only water between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.	<a href="#">Visit the City of West Kelowna's Watering Regulations and Conservation Page here.</a>
<b>Peachland</b>	<b>Stage 2</b> — Even numbered addresses water Saturday and Tuesday, odd numbered addresses water Sunday and Wednesday, no watering between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.	<a href="#">Visit the District of Peachland's Conserving Water Page here.</a>

<b>Summerland</b>	<b>Recommended Stage 2</b> — Two days a week determined by your address, no watering on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays, no sprinklers between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.	<a href="#">Visit the District of Summerland's Water Restrictions page here.</a>
<b>Penticton</b>	<b>Stage 1</b> — Up to three days a week as per your address, no watering on Mondays, no sprinklers between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.	<a href="#">Visit the City of Penticton's Water Restrictions page here.</a>
<b>Osoyoos</b>	<b>Stage 2</b> — Two days a week determined by your zone location, no watering on Saturdays, no sprinklers between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.	<a href="#">Visit the City of Osoyoos Water Restrictions page here.</a>
<b>RDNO</b>	<b>Varied stages</b> depending on the Water Utility, please visit the link to learn more.	<a href="#">Visit the RDNO's Water Restrictions page here.</a>
<b>RDCO</b>	<b>Stage 3</b> — Even numbered addresses water Saturdays only, odd numbered addresses water Sundays only, only water between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m.	<a href="#">Visit the RDCO's Water Systems Page here.</a>
<b>RDOS</b>	<b>Varied stages</b> depending on the Electoral Area, please visit the link to learn more.	<a href="#">Visit the RDOS' Water Restrictions page here.</a>

## Spawning salmon are struggling!



As noted above, water levels are making salmon migration particularly difficult this year so we need to protect the fish that are able to make it upstream!

Please help protect these vulnerable fish by keeping dogs, kids, and feet out of creeks and spawning channels during this sensitive season.

Let's give salmon the space they need to thrive. All the fish thank you!

### DID YOU KNOW?!

ONA's Riverwatcher cam on the **Okanagan Lake Dam Passage** has captured several fish species, a muskrat, and even a river otter.

Click here watch the fish!: [www.riverwatcherdaily.is?I=197](http://www.riverwatcherdaily.is?I=197)

