



Water Shortages and Drought Conditions TIPS SHEET

What should you do if there are concerns about potential water shortages in your community?

1. Check your Emergency Response Plan

What does it say about water shortages? If you don't have an emergency response plan, or it doesn't cover prolonged water shortages, then begin recording your steps to document for any future events.

2. Establish your response team

This may include your water system operator, public works manager, Band manager and a councilor(s). Your Circuit Rider can also be a resource for the team at this stage. Determine roles and responsibilities so you can develop an action plan. Your team should meet at least daily to update what they have been working on, what impact it's having, and what's still left to do.

3. If you haven't been doing this already, immediately begin to monitor your water consumption

You need to know how much water your community is using and at what rate so that you can estimate how many days of water you might have left. Track this regularly so you can monitor changes over time.

4. Advise residents to reduce their water consumption

See tips provided by the First Nations Health Authority:

[Drought Planning Information for First Nations Communities](https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/drought-planning-information-for-first-nations-communities)
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If you're going door-to-door to advise residents, ask to also inspect water services inside the home to make sure they are not leaking. Leakage from faucets and toilets can add up to significant water waste. If these are leaking, make sure they are repaired.

5. Start a program of leak detection and repairs in your community's water distribution system

Even small leaks can account for large losses of water! The most common area for leaks to occur is at service connections – where the services meet the main distribution line -- and also at hydrants and in unoccupied buildings. These are good places to start looking for and repairing leaks.

6. Let community members know what's happening.

Have a means of letting residents know what's happening and reinforce what they should be doing to conserve water. This could be via a community Facebook page, flyers delivered to each house, or regular community meetings. This ensures everyone is informed.

7. If water levels in your water reservoir are decreasing, investigate alternate sources of water.

This could include water hauling or bottled water companies.¹


8. If you need additional assistance, contact your Capital Management Officer (CMO) to seek advice.


9. If you need immediate assistance due to drinking water shortages and are outside of normal working hours, please contact 604-209-9709 or bcaandc.do@sac-isc.gc.ca


10. Once the event is over, document your activities and update your Emergency Response Plan.

¹ Some items above may be eligible for reimbursement from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), but only if pre-approved.

Learn More:

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|  | Web Link – Drought Information |
| | https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/drought-information |

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|  | PDF Document - Dealing With Drought |
| | https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-info/dealing_with_drought_handbook.pdf |

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|---|---|
|  | Web Link – Water Conservation |
| | https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/drought-information/water-conservation |