



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City encourages residents and visitors to take precautions and check on one another during heat wave

Environment Canada has issued a [heat warning](#) for the Okanagan Valley (including [Vernon](#)), and is predicting record breaking temperatures to be recorded in parts of the province over the next few days.

Between Saturday and Wednesday, Environment Canada is forecasting daytime highs to range between 35 to 40 degrees Celsius and overnight lows are expected to range between 20 to 22 degrees Celsius.

The City of Vernon encourages all residents, businesses and visitors to prepare for the impacts of this hot weather event and take specific precautions to care for yourselves and each other.

The City has been working closely with the Social Planning Council of North Okanagan and other community partners to identify resources and practical ways to assist those who may be more vulnerable or negatively impacted by the prolonged increased temperatures. Service providers and outreach teams will be assisting individuals who are unhoused by offering bottles of water and information about where to find shade, access to public facilities during the day, and additional water resources.

[Interior Health](#) and the [BCCDC](#) recommend watching yourself and others for signs of heat-related illness and to take specific steps to stay cool and hydrated, including:

- Drink water regularly, before you start to feel thirsty
- Seek shade or cool indoor locations, avoid direct mid-day sun
- Wear loose protective clothing and a hat, sunscreen and UV-protective eyewear
- Plan your outdoor activity before 11 a.m. or after 4 p.m., to avoid the most intense sun, and take it slow with plenty of rest breaks
- Never leave people or pets alone in a parked car. Temperatures can rise rapidly and become much hotter than the outside temperature
- Cover windows during the day and open them in the evening if you can get a breeze through your home
- Use air conditioning (if available) to take the edge off the heat, but be careful not to over-cool your space

- If you don't have air conditioning, seek shelter in the coolest room of your home and use a fan
- Regularly check on relatives, friends and neighbours to see how they're doing; particularly older adults, infants and children, those doing a lot of physical activity or working outside, and those with underlying health conditions

If you are planning to spend time outside, remember to check the forecast, be prepared with safety items and plenty of water, and pay very close attention to your activities and the surrounding area. With increased temperatures, the threat of wildfire can change quickly. If you see a wildfire, call the BC Wildfire Service at **1 800 663-5555 toll-free** or ***5555 on a cellphone**.