Now
T:11 10/15/25

State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State is witnessing a surge in wildfire occurrences due to an unusually dry period that elevates the danger as fallen leaves accumulate and when additional forest fuels become available to burn; and

Whereas, due to a period of dry weather conditions expected statewide in the coming days and a trend of increasing potential for wildfires, there is great concern that wildfires could unexpectedly and rapidly increase, thereby endangering the health, safety, and property of New Yorkers; and

Whereas, the open burning of debris or brush and improperly extinguished and unattended campfires are the leading causes of wildfires during the fall months; and

Whereas, several factors enable wildfires to start easily and spread quickly at this time, including the lack of green vegetation, abundance of available fuels such as dry grass and leaves, and wind; and

Whereas, the increased potential for wildfires and elevated life-threatening fire risk may create problems greater in scope than local governments alone may resolve; and

Whereas, since 2009, New York State has banned the open burning of debris and brush statewide from March 16th through May 14th, a period that has historically been the state's high fire danger risk period; and

Whereas, all indications are that the dry conditions will continue through October 15, 2025; and

Whereas, to ensure public safety and protect the forests of the state from the danger of fire, the governor is authorized under section 9-1101 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law to implement measures such as a high fire danger risk outdoor burn ban; and

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim the implementation and mandatory observance of a

HIGH FIRE-DANGER RISK OUTDOOR BURN BAN

throughout the State of New York, until October 15, 2025.

This burn ban prohibits the starting of outdoor fires statewide for purposes of brush and debris disposal, as well as uncontained campfires, recreational fires and open fires used for cooking, unless otherwise excluded below. This ban shall not apply to:

(a) Barbecue grills, maple sugar arches and similar outdoor cooking devices when used for cooking or processing food.
(b) Contained campfires less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in length, width or diameter if contained in a fireplace, hibachi or fire ring.
(c) On-site burning of agricultural wastes as part of a valid agricultural operation on contiguous agricultural lands larger than five acres actively devoted to agricultural or horticultural use, provided such waste is grown or generated on those lands and such waste is capable of being fully burned within a 24-hour period.
(d) Burning on an emergency basis of explosive or other dangerous or contraband materials by police or other public safety organizations.
(e) Prescribed burns performed according to 6 NYCRR Part 194.
(f) Fire training, including firefighting, fire rescue, and fire/arson investigation training, performed under applicable rules and guidelines of the New York State Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control. For fire training performed on acquired structures, the structures must be emptied and stripped of any material that is toxic, hazardous or likely to emit toxic smoke (such as asbestos, asphalt shingles and vinyl siding or other vinyl products) prior to burning and must be at least 300 feet from other occupied structures. No more than one structure per lot or within a 300 foot radius (whichever is bigger) may be burned in a training exercise.
(g) Individual open fires as approved by the director of the Division of Air Resources as may be required in response to an outbreak of a plant or animal disease upon request by the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets, or for the destruction of invasive plant and insect species.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capital in the City of Albany this first day of October in the year two thousand twenty-five.

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh

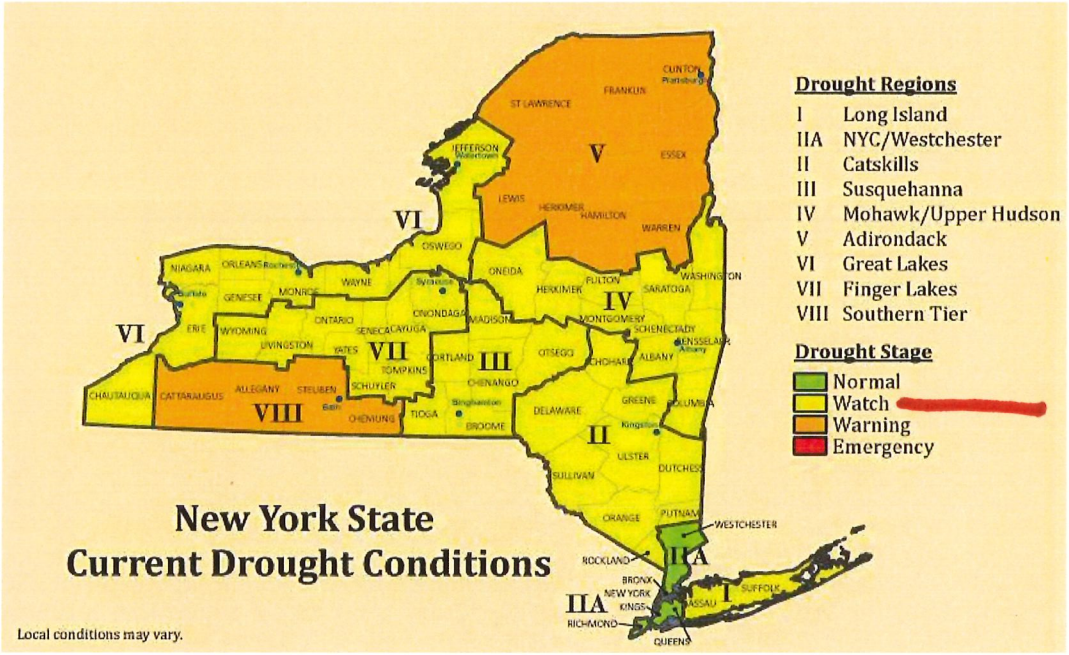
Kathy Hochul
Governor

Fire Danger

10/3/25

Current Drought Conditions

Drought Regions I, II, III, IV, VI, and VII are currently in Drought Watch. Drought Regions V and VIII are currently in Drought Warning. Drought status determinations are based on a State Drought Index that uses New York State specific attributes, so it may differ somewhat from national drought assessments. In addition, local conditions may vary, so some areas of the state may make their own terminations of drought stage using locally-focused criteria.



A "watch" is the first of four levels of state drought advisories ("watch," "warning," "emergency" and "disaster"). There are no statewide mandatory water use restrictions in place under a drought watch, but residents are strongly encouraged to voluntarily conserve water. Local public water suppliers may require conservation measures, depending upon local needs and conditions.

A "warning" is the second of four levels of State drought advisories. Under Drought Warning, voluntary water conservation is intensified, and public water supplies and industries are advised to update and implement local drought contingency plans. Local agencies make plans in case of emergency declaration.

New York's drought advisories are intended primarily for guidance to public and private water suppliers and withdrawals. If you are experiencing a water shortage, please contact your water supplier, local agricultural extension, or local health department.

Certain sectors have the potential to be impacted by drought conditions. This document provides general information regarding the potential impacts and recommended actions in response to drought conditions. New York State's Drought Management Task Force agencies, including DEC, are available to provide technical assistance and guidance to affected water users.

Description of Fire Danger Ratings

Adjective Rating Class and Color Code	Class Description
Red Flag	A short-term, temporary warning, indicating the presence of a dangerous combination of temperature, wind, relative humidity, fuel or drought conditions which can contribute to new fires or rapid spread of existing fires. A Red Flag Warning can be issued at any Fire Danger level.
Extreme (Red)	Fires start quickly, spread furiously, and burn intensely. All fires are potentially serious. Development into high intensity burning will usually be faster and occur from smaller fires than in the very high fire danger class. Direct attack is rarely possible and may be dangerous except immediately after ignition. Fires that develop headway in heavy slash or in conifer stands may be unmanageable while the extreme burning condition lasts. Under these conditions the only effective and safe control action is on the flanks until the weather changes or the fuel supply lessens.
Very High (Orange)	Fires start easily from all causes and, immediately after ignition, spread rapidly and increase quickly in intensity. Spot fires are a constant danger. Fires burning in light fuels may quickly develop high intensity characteristics such as long-distance spotting and fire whirlwinds when they burn into heavier fuels.
High (Yellow)	All fine dead fuels ignite readily and fires start easily from most causes. Unattended brush and campfires are likely to escape. Fires spread rapidly and short-distance spotting is common. High-intensity burning may develop on slopes or in concentrations of fine fuels. Fires may become serious and their control difficult unless they are attacked successfully while small.
Moderate (Blue)	Fires can start from most accidental causes but, with the exception of lightning fires in some areas, the number o starts is generally low. Fires in open cured grasslands will burn briskly and spread rapidly on windy days. Timber fires spread slowly to moderately fast. The average fire is of moderate intensity, although heavy concentrations of fuel, especially draped fuel, may burn hot. Short-distance spotting may occur, but is not persistent. Fires are not likely to become serious and control is relatively easy.
Low (Green)	Fuels do not ignite readily from small firebrands although a more intense heat source, such as lightning, may star fires in duff or punky wood. Fires in open cured grasslands may burn freely a few hours after rain, but woods fire spread slowly by creeping or smoldering, and burn in irregular fingers. There is little danger of spotting.

Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRA) Definitions

FDRA	Counties
Adirondack	Southwest Clinton, Southwest Essex, Southern Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Northern Herkimer, Eastern Lewis, Northeastern Oneida, Southern St. Lawrence

NOAA NIDIS **Drought.gov**
National Integrated Drought Information System

10/3/25

The U.S. government is closed. This site will not be updated; however, NOAA websites and social media channels necessary to protect lives and property will be maintained. To learn more, visit commerce.gov (https://www.commerce.gov/news/blog).

For the latest forecasts and critical weather information, visit weather.gov (https://www.weather.gov).

New York

On This Page

primary counties with USDA Drought Disaster Designations, according to USDA Farm Service Agency

8.5 Million

New York residents in areas of drought, according to the Drought Monitor

9.5% since last week

8th

driest August on record (since 1895)

2.35 in. total precipitation

1.35 in. from normal

60th

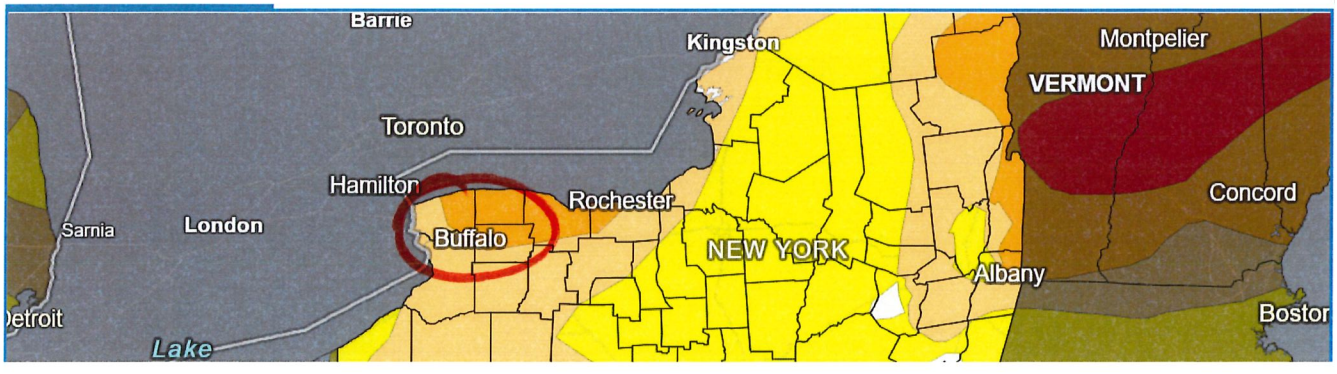
driest January—August on record (since 1895)

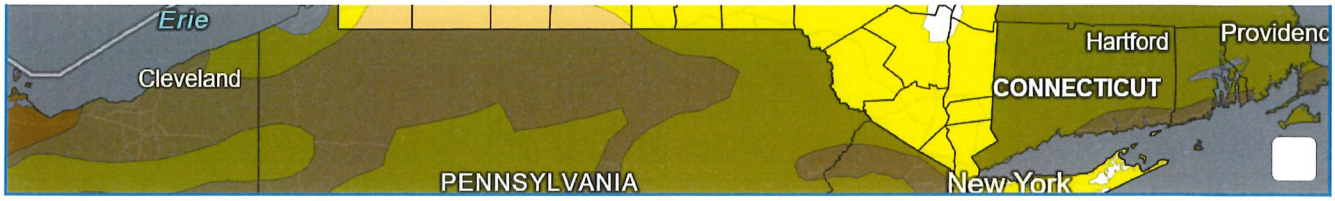
26.64 in. total precipitation

0.01 in. from normal

Current New York Drought Maps

U.S. Drought Monitor





The U.S. Drought Monitor depicts the location and intensity of drought across the country. The map uses 5 classifications: Abnormally Dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four levels of drought (D1–D4). The map is jointly produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and National Drought Mitigation Center. Authors from these agencies rotate creating the map each week, using both physical indicators and input from local observers.

This map is used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to trigger some disaster declarations and loan eligibility. Individual states and water supply planning may use additional information to inform their declarations and actions. Learn more (https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About/WhatistheUSDM.aspx).

How has drought impacted this state in the past? Explore **historical Drought Monitor maps** (/historical-information).

Source(s): NDMC (/about/partners/national-drought-mitigation-center-ndmc), NOAA (/about/partners/national-oceanic-and-atmospheric-administration-noaa), USDA (/about/partners/us-department-agriculture-usda)

Drought Index Water Supply Agriculture

DATA VALID: 09/30/25

Legend

Drought & Dryness Categories	% of NY
D0 – Abnormally Dry	57.1%
D1 – Moderate Drought	33.9%
D2 – Severe Drought	7.8%
D3 – Extreme Drought	0.0%
D4 – Exceptional Drought	0.0%
Total Area in Drought (D1–D4)	41.8%

Updates

VIEW COUNTY MAPS

LEARN MORE

***The National Weather Service has issued a drought information statement for** Buffalo, NY*

Drought in New York

New York State experiences drought, on average, every two to three years. These droughts often occur seasonally, peaking in summer and improving over winter. Winter snowfall amounts vary greatly over the state, ranging from around 30 inches in New York City and Long Island to 140 inches in Oswego, east of Lake Ontario. The snowfall and snow cover provide helpful water content as spring melt releases this water into the soils and streams. Due to climate change, this melting is occurring earlier in the year, and possibly leading to lower-than-expected streamflows or soil moisture going into the warm season. As winters warm, more precipitation is falling as rain instead of snow, also contributing to less spring snowmelt.

Dry conditions can increase after spring moisture has waned and heat and evaporation increase. Summers in New York normally have high temperatures, increasing evapotranspiration, which dries out soils. And the state's varying soil characteristics create different responses to dry conditions. The precipitation pattern also changes over the seasons, with much of summer precipitation coming from thunderstorms. These can produce heavy downpours, which often result in higher runoff into lakes, rivers, and streams,

New York State Drought Resources

State Drought Website:

New York Department of Environmental Conservation | Drought (https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5011.html)

State Emergency Management Plan:

New York State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan: Drought Management Coordination Annex