The Costs Are Rising From

Severe Weather Events

For almost 40 years, the **U.S. has experienced a dramatic increase in severe weather events.** These natural disasters are adding up to high costs.

From 1980–2019

The U.S. has sustained at least

246
weather disasters

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Equaling more than

$1.6 trillion

On average, there are **13 events** each year that cost over **$1 billion** in damage.

Though every region in the U.S. experiences different weather events, **every state has been impacted by at least one $1 billion disaster** since 1980.

The South, **Midwest** and **Southeast** regions experience a higher frequency of billion-dollar disasters than other regions.

Since 1980, Texas had **104 events**, including hurricanes and flooding, totaling about **$250 billion in damages.**

Extreme Temperatures

- Heat and humidity kill an average of **1,300 people** in the U.S. every year
- Excessive heat killed **783 U.S. workers** and **seriously injured 69,734** from 1992 to 2016
- By 2030, heat waves will lead to a **$2 trillion loss in labor productivity**
- From 2006–2010, **6,660** people died from **hypothermia or exposure to cold**
- There have been **nine freeze events** costing **over $1 billion each** across the U.S. from 1980 to 2019
- Freezes cost an average of **$3.4 billion** for each event

Flooding

- Floods are the **second-most widespread natural disaster** after wildfires, and they're responsible for **90% of all U.S. natural disasters** declared by presidents
- Floods **kill an average of 95 people** each year
- Each event causes about **$4.3 billion in damages**

Most flood-related deaths occur as people are swept away in cars.

2' of floodwater moving at 9' per second is enough to sweep vehicles away, move 100 lb. rocks, uproot trees and level buildings.

Hurricanes

- Hurricanes are the costliest weather disasters for the U.S., totaling **$927.5 billion in damages** from 1980–2018
- They have the **highest average cost of $22.1 billion** per event
- From 2016–2018, the U.S. was hit by six separate hurricanes, **totaling $329.9 billion in costs** and claiming **3,318 lives**

6,487 in 30 years

Hurricanes are responsible for the highest amount of severe weather-related deaths in the U.S.

Tornadoes

- The U.S. averages about **1,200 tornadoes every year** — the most in the world
- The current average **lead time for a warning is 13 minutes**, meaning the time required to take shelter
- Tornadoes cause an **average of 80 deaths** and **more than 1,500 injuries** every year
- The average annual insured loss from tornadoes is **$11.23 billion**

Tornado Alley
is where most tornadoes occur:

South Dakota
Nebraska
Kansas
Oklahoma
Iowa
Missouri
Northern Texas

Wildfires

- Over **100,000 wildfires** clear **4 million to 5 million acres** of land in the U.S. every year
- The average U.S. wildfire **event costs $5 billion** in damages
- **15 of the 20 most destructive wildfires** (buildings destroyed) and **15 of the 20 largest California wildfires** have occurred since 2000
- The Camp Fire wildfire in California was the world's costliest natural disaster in 2018, causing **$16.5 billion in damage**
- Over 18 million combined acres burned between 2017 and 2018, **costing more than $40 billion** in damage

The total U.S. wildfire costs for 2017 and 2018 is nearly the same as the previous 37 years combined (1980–2016).

Winter Storms

- There have been **17 major storms** from 1980–2018, causing **$48.9 billion in damages**
- The average major winter storm costs **$2.9 billion per event**
- During 1980–2018, **1,044 people have died** from winter storms
- The U.S. now averages **19 blizzards a year**, up from nine blizzards from 1960–1994

Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)

Climate.gov

Find out how to communicate and inform your employees effectively and efficiently, as well as help them be prepared if they need to act in the event of a major weather event or emergency situation.

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