

## Weather Hazards

Weather hazards impact the entire country, with enormous effects on the economy and public safety. Since 1980, [weather/climate](#) disasters have cost the U.S. economy more than **\$1.5 trillion**. In an average year, the United States will be affected by **six** billion-dollar weather/climate disasters, but this number has increased in recent years: from 2013-2017 the average was 11.6 events.

### Basics



Weather hazards include hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, lightning, hail, winds, and winter weather. Many of these phenomena are related to atmospheric conditions that can be monitored and forecast. [Read more](#)

### Frequently Asked Questions

[How does El Niño affect my area?](#)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[What is the evidence that our present-day climate is changing?](#)

American Geosciences Institute

[How might global warming change hurricane intensity, frequency, and rainfall?](#)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[How does the damage from hurricanes compare to that of tornadoes?](#)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[How many tornadoes have there been in my state or county?](#)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

*Do you have a question that's not listed here? [Search all FAQs](#)*

## Explore Related Topics



### Climate

Climate has an enormous impact on society, with wide-ranging effects on public safety and health, the economy, transportation, infrastructure, and agriculture. Geoscientists investigate our climate's past and present to better understand how it may change in the future.



### Drought

Since 1980 the United States has experienced more than **24 major droughts**, resulting in almost 3,000 deaths and economic impacts exceeding \$225 billion. All areas of the U.S. have some drought risk.



### Floods

Flooding is the most common and costliest natural hazard facing the United States. Each year, flooding causes billions of dollars in damages and dozens of deaths nationwide.



### Hazards

Natural hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, hurricanes, floods, and wildfires endanger public health and safety, threaten critical infrastructure, and cost our economy billions of dollars each year. Geoscientists study these hazards to provide information and warnings to populations at risk.



### Landslides

Landslides affect all 50 states and U.S. territories, where they cause **25 to 50 deaths and more than \$1 billion in damages** each year. Geoscientists study and monitor landslides to identify at-risk areas, prepare populations, and improve our understanding of why, when, and where landslides happen.



### Sinkholes

Sinkholes have both natural and artificial causes. They tend to occur most often in places where water can dissolve the bedrock

(especially limestone) below the surface, causing overlying rocks to collapse. Florida, Texas, Alabama, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania are [most sinkhole-prone](#).



### Wildfires

Wildfires are causing more frequent and wider-ranging societal impacts, especially as residential communities continue to expand into wildland areas. Since 2000, there have been [twelve wildfires in the United States](#) that have each caused damages exceeding \$1 billion; cumulatively, these twelve wildfires have caused a total of \$44 billion in damages.

### Latest News



### [House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passes a series of disaster aid bills](#) (2019-04-12)

April 2, 2019 Several disaster aid bills were introduced in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee beginning on February 15 in a continuing effort to mitigate the economic and physical impacts of future natural disasters. Congressman Mark Meadows (R-NC-11) has now introduced two...

### Maps & Visualizations



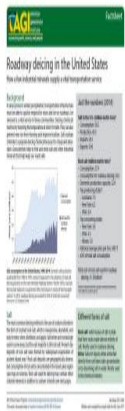
### [Interactive map of real-time flood information for Texas](#)

U.S. Geological Survey

The U.S. Geological Survey's Water On The Go app provides real-time information on stream flows, lake levels, and rainfall in Texas. The app automatically finds data near your current location (or any chosen location in Texas) for rapid access to water information. Special icons indicate rapidly...

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### Case Studies & Factsheets



## Roadway deicing in the United States

Background In areas prone to winter precipitation, transportation infrastructure must be able to quickly respond to snow and ice on roadways. Ice removal is a vital service in these communities. Deicing chemicals melt ice by lowering the temperature at which it melts. They can also prevent new ice...

[Search all Case Studies & Factsheets >](#)

## Webinars & Forums



### Planning for Coastal Storm and Erosion Hazards

2017-07-06

This webinar will focus on efforts to anticipate, mitigate, and respond to coastal storms, erosion, and associated hazards at the federal, state, and local level.

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## GOLI Online Courses



### Assessing, Mitigating, and Communicating Flood Risk

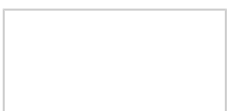
Course Type: GOLI Online Course

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Flooding is a perennial hazard for rivers and coasts alike. Every year, flooding results in billions of dollars of damage and the loss of dozens to hundreds of lives across the United States. Efforts to mitigate this hazard rely on the work of geoscientists, planners, and communicators to assess...

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## Geological Surveys Database Publications





**Using vibracore and profile data to quantify volumes of renourished sediments, Holocene thickness, and sedimentation patterns; Hancock County, Mississippi**  
2001, Mississippi Office of Geology

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