



Summary of Natural Hazard Statistics for 2004 in the United States



This National Weather Service (NWS) report summarizes fatalities, injuries and damages caused by severe weather in 2004. The NWS Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services and the National Climatic Data Center compiled this *Summary of U.S. Natural Hazard Statistics* from Storm Data, a report comprising statistics from NWS forecast offices in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

Summary of 2004 Weather Events, Fatalities, Injuries, and Damage Costs

LAST UPDATED : 7/13/2005

<u>Weather Event</u>	<u>Fatalities</u>	<u>Injuries</u>	<u>Amount of Property Damage (M)</u>	<u>Amount of Crop Damage (M)</u>	<u>Total Prop/Crop Damage (M)</u>
<u>Convection</u>					
Lightning	32	280	\$ 26.1	\$ 0.0	\$ 26.1
Tornado	35	396	537.1	12.1	549.2
Tstm Wind	16	244	167.3	15.6	182.9
Hail	0	4	463.0	73.0	536.0
<u>Extreme Temperatures</u>					
Cold	27	2	0.7	0.0	0.7
Heat	6	74	0.0	0.0	0.0
<u>Flood</u>					
Flash Flood	58	29	856.7	12.2	868.9
River Flood	24	99	839.5	329.2	1,168.7
Small Stream/Urban Flood	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<u>Marine</u>					
Coastal Storm	30	29	0.5	0.0	0.5
Tsunami	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rip Current	32	23	0.0	0.0	0.0
<u>Tropical Cyclones</u>					
Tropical Storm/Hurricane	34	840	18,901.8	667.3	19,569.1
<u>Winter</u>					
Winter Storm	28	190	183.5	0.2	183.7
Ice	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Avalanche	12	6	0.1	0.0	0.1
<u>Other</u>					
Drought	0	0	0.0	1.2	1.2
Dust Storm	0	11	0.1	0.0	0.1
Dust Devil	0	5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rain	4	9	3.6	0.5	4.1
Fog	1	45	1.6	0.0	1.6
High Wind	26	68	3,312.8	340.5	3,653.3
Waterspout	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fire Weather	0	0	16.9	0.0	16.9
Mud Slide	4	11	32.3	0.0	32.3
Volcanic Ash	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0	63	2.8	0.3	3.1
TOTALS	369	2428	\$25,346.4M	\$1,452.1M	\$26,798.5M

Summary of 2004 Natural Hazard Statistics

In 2004, there were 369 weather-related fatalities, a significant decrease from 438 in 2003 and even more notable drop from 542 in 2002. The 2004 fatality number is well below the 10-year average (1994-2003) of 521. The biggest weather threat to life in 2004 was flooding. In 2004, flooding took the most lives, claiming 82 weather related victims, down from 86 in 2003. The next biggest killers in 2004 were tornadoes with 35 fatalities and tropical storms/ hurricanes with 34 fatalities, followed by rip currents and lighting with 32 deaths each. For the second year in a row, extreme heat, typically the biggest killer, ranked as one of least dangerous hazards, claiming only 6 lives.

Weather-related injuries dropped in 2004 to 2,428 from 2,924 in 2003. Hurricanes replaced tornadoes as the major source of injuries in 2004 with 840. Tornadoes caused 396 injuries (down from 1,087 in 2003), lightning, 280 and thunderstorm winds, 244.

Of the 367 weather-related fatalities, males again accounted for about twice as many deaths as females. As in the past, males were affected more by weather in all categories.

September was the deadliest month with 72 fatalities, most of which were from a series of strong hurricanes that pounded the southeastern coastal states. As to be expected, in 2004, Florida was hardest hit by weather, losing 61 citizens to hurricanes, rip currents and other hazards. Weather claimed 28 lives in Illinois, 25 in Texas and 22 in North Carolina.

Severe weather caused \$25.3 billion in property damages in 2004, up from \$11.4 billion in 2003 and \$5.7 billion in 2002. Hurricanes replaced wildfires as the most damaging weather in 2004 with an estimated \$18.9 billion in claims. Coming in a distant second was high wind which caused \$3.3 billion in losses and flooding, which registered about \$1.7 billion.

Crop damages for 2004 totaled \$1.45 billion. Hurricanes were responsible for \$667.3 million in losses. Floods destroyed \$340.5 million in crops. Florida took the dubious honor of highest weather related property and crop damages totaling \$19.3 billion in losses, mostly due to intense wind and rain from three major hurricanes, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne.

2004 Summary of all Natural Hazards

2004 SUMMARY OF FATALITIES FOR ALL HAZARDS BY AGE AND GENDER

	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
0 TO 9	11	13	0	24	7
10 TO 19	9	20	0	29	8
20 TO 29	11	33	1	45	12
30 TO 39	16	33	0	49	13
40 TO 49	12	40	0	52	14
50 TO 59	14	36	0	50	14
60 TO 69	14	18	0	32	9
70 TO 79	10	12	0	22	6
80 TO 89	12	11	0	23	6
90 TO --	2	1	0	3	1
UNKNOWN	11	21	8	40	11
TOTAL	122	238	9	369	100*
PERCENT	33	64	2	100	

(* Due to rounding total does not equal 100%)

2004 MONTHLY WEATHER RELATED FATALITIES

