

Table 371. Major U.S. Weather Disasters: 2001 to 2007

[5 represents \$5,000,000,000. Covers only weather-related disasters costing \$1 billion or more]

Event	Description	Time period	Estimated cost ¹ (bil.dol.)	Deaths
Great Plains and eastern drought	Severe drought with periods of extreme heat resulting in major reductions in crop yields, along with very low stream flows, and lake levels.	Entire year 2007	5	(²)
Western wildfires	Continued drought conditions and high winds over much of the western U.S., resulting in numerous wildfires.	Summer–Fall 2007	Over 1	12
Spring freeze	Widespread severe freeze over much of the east and midwest causing losses in fruit crops, field crops, and in the ornamental industry.	Apr. 2007	2	–
Severe storms and tornadoes	Flooding, hail, tornadoes, and severe thunderstorms across numerous eastern and southern states.	Apr. 2007	1.5	9
Freeze	Widespread agricultural freeze over a good portion of California, destroying numerous agricultural crops.	Jan. 2007	1.4	1
Widespread drought	Rather severe drought affected crops in states especially during the spring–summer, centered over the Great Plains region, with other areas affected across portions of the south and far west.	Spring–Summer 2006	Over 6	(²)
Severe storms and tornadoes	Outbreak of tornadoes over portions of the midwest and south during a week-long period.	March 2006	Over 1	10+
Numerous wildfires	Wildfires mainly over the western half of the country, due to dry weather and high wind burning nearly 10 million acres (new record for period since 1960).	Entire year 2006	Over 1	28+
Hurricane Wilma	Category 3 hurricane makes landfall in southwest Florida, causing considerable damage from major flooding and strong winds in south-east Florida.	Oct. 2005	Over 10	35
Hurricane Rita	Category 3 hurricane makes landfall on the Texas-Louisiana border coastal region, causing surge/wind damage along the coast and flood damage in FL, MS, LA, AR, and TX.	Sept. 2005	Over 8	119
Hurricane Katrina	Category 3 hurricane makes landfall as a category 1 near Miami, FL, and on the LA, MS coast, causing massive damage in addition to flood and wind damage in AL, FL, TN, KY, OH, and GA.	Aug. 2005	Over 100	1,300+
Hurricane Dennis	Category 3 hurricane makes landfall in western Florida causing wind and surge damage, also causing wind and flood damage to GA, MS, and TN.	July 2005	Over 2	12+
Midwest drought	Midwest drought causing crop losses in AR, IL, IN, MO, OH, and WI.	Spring–summer 2005	Over 1.0	–
Hurricane Jeanne	Category 3 hurricane makes landfall in east-central Florida, causing considerable damage in Florida and some flood damage in GA, SC, NC, VA, MD, DE, NJ, PA, and NY.	Sept. 2004	Over 6.9	28
Hurricane Ivan	Category 3 hurricane makes landfall on Gulf coast of Alabama causing significant damage in AL and FL and wind/flood damage in GA, SC, NC, LA, MS, WV, MD, TN, KY, OH, DE, NJ, PA, and NY.	Sept. 2004	Over 14	57
Hurricane Frances	Category 2 hurricane makes landfall in east-central Florida causing significant damage in FL and considerable flood damage in GA, SC, NC, and NY.	Sept. 2004	Over 9	48
Hurricane Charley	Category 4 hurricane makes landfall in southwest FL resulting in major damage in FL and some damage in SC and NC.	Aug. 2004	15	34
Southern California wildfires	Dry weather, high winds, and resulting wildfires in southern CA burned 743,000 acres and destroyed 3,700 homes.	Oct.– Nov. 2003	2.5	22
Hurricane Isabel	Category 2 hurricane makes landfall in eastern NC, causing damage along coasts of NC, VA, and MD with wind damage and flooding in NC, VA, MD, DE, WV, NJ, NY, and PA.	Sept. 2003	5	55
Midwest severe storms and tornadoes	Numerous tornadoes over the midwest, MS River valley, and OH/TN River valleys with record 400 tornadoes in one week.	May 2003	Over 3.4	51
Storms and hail	Severe storms and large hail over southern plains, lower MS River valley, and TX.	April 2003	Over 1.6	3
Widespread drought	Moderate to extreme drought over large portions of 30 states.	Spring to fall 2002	Over 10	–
Western fire season	Major fires over 11 western states from Rockies to west coast.	Spring to fall 2002	Over 2.0	21
Tropical Storm Allison	Tropical storm produced rainfall and severe flooding in coastal portions of TX and LA and damage in MS, FL, VA, and PA.	June 2001	5.0	43
Midwest and Ohio Valley hail and tornadoes	Storms, tornadoes, and hail in TX, OK, KS, NE, IA, MO, IL, IN, WI, MI, OH, KY, and PA.	April 2001	Over 1.9	3

– Represents zero. ¹ Represents actual dollar costs at the time of event and is not adjusted for inflation. ² Some deaths reported due to heat but not beyond typical annual averages.

Source: U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Climatic Data Center, "Billion Dollar U.S. Weather Disasters, 1980–2007" (released 1 January 2008). See also <<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/reports/billionz.html>>.