

tained wind greater than 155 mph, generate a storm surge higher than 18 feet and cause catastrophic damage. The USA's strongest 20th century hurricane hit the Florida Keys on Sept. 2, 1935, before forecasters formally named storms. This one is often called the "Florida Keys Labor Day" storm during which 408 people were killed. Hurricane Camille, the USA's second strongest 20th century hurricane, hit the Mississippi coast in 1969. The wind was more than 200 mph and 256 deaths occurred. On Aug. 24, 1992, Hurricane Andrew slammed south Florida and continued northwest across the Gulf of Mexico to strike the Louisiana coastline. Andrew caused 61 deaths in the U.S. and three more in the Bahamas. The hurricane flattened Galveston, Texas in 1900 and killed between 8,000 to 12,000 people. It was a Category 4.



### Monstrous Tornadoes!

Pictured above is a F-5 Tornado on the road in Oklahoma City in May, 1999. It was classified as F-5, the strongest category. The worst tornado in U.S. history was the Great Tri-State Tornado. Seven tornadoes soared through the states of Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana in March 18, 1925 and killed 695 and injured 2,027. The Palm Sunday Outbreak of April 11, 1965, 51 tornadoes swept through the west mid-states and killed 256. The Tornado Outbreak of 1974 was the worst in U.S. history with 148 twisters touching down in 13 states: Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia in April 3-4, 1974. Three hundred-thirty people were killed and 5,484 were injured.



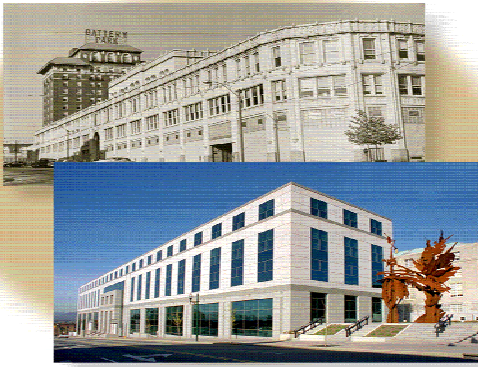
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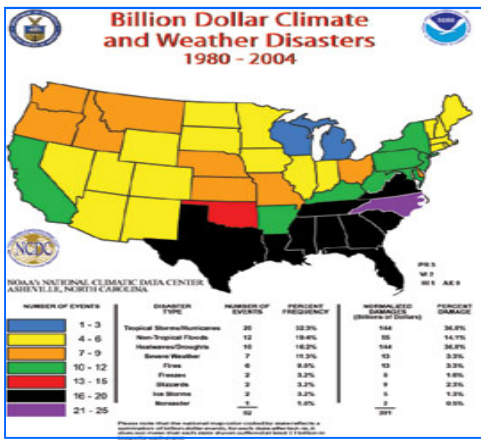
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# Severe Weather Events





Important information that can be found at the Climate Services Division in the Veach-Baley Federal Building in Asheville, North Carolina



**Billion Dollar Weather Disasters 1980-2004**

The U.S. has sustained 62 weather-related disasters during the 1980-2004 period in which overall damages and costs reached or exceeded \$1 billion at the time of the event. This report does not contain any events that had unadjusted damages/losses less than \$1 billion dollars and then subsequently may have reached \$1 billion after applying the (Gross National Product) GNP inflation/wealth index. Fifty-three of these disasters occurred since 1988 with total unadjusted damages/costs of nearly \$260 billion. Seven events occurred in 1998 alone--the most for any year in the summary period, though other years have recorded higher damage totals. Events are listed beginning with the most recent.



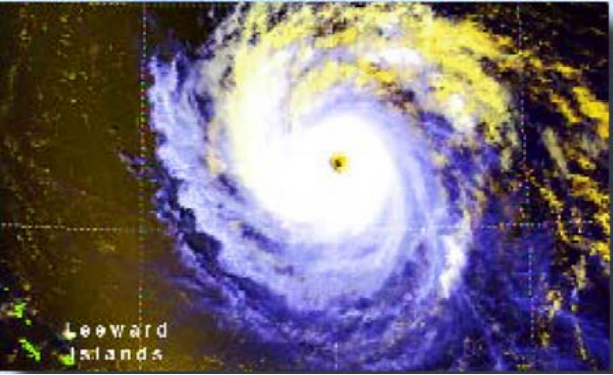
**The Storm of the Century**  
The "Blizzard of the Century" on March 12-15, 1993 ravaged more than half of the eastern United States in 26 states. The blizzard of March 1993 was one of the largest winter storms in terms of snowfall and fourth costliest storm in U.S. history. Costs exceeded 5.0-6.0 billion dollars for damages. Snow fell at rates between an inch and two inches an hour in some areas, and many locations experienced record-breaking snowfalls and record snow depths. This storm caused the tornadoes in Florida, floods, and thunderstorms in southeastern states. Two hundred-seventy people were killed and 48 were missing at sea.



**Largest Hailstone in U.S. History Found**  
The record-setting hailstone measures over seven inches (18 centimeters) in diameter and was found in Aurora, Nebraska on June 22, 2003. The hailstone was almost as large as a soccer ball.



**The Great USA Flood of 1993**  
The Great Flood of 1993 was caused by extremely heavy rainfall in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Wisconsin from January through July. Up to 40 inches of rain fell in some areas; this was as much as two times the normal rainfall for some areas. Most of the rain fell in June and July, and this rainfall was up to six times the normal rainfall for that period. Damages totaled \$21.0 billion. 50 people died, hundreds of levees failed, and thousands of people were evacuated, some for months. The flash floods are the number one weather-related killer in the United States, 2,200 deaths in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, May 31, 1889; 238 fatalities in Rapid City, South Dakota, June 9, 1972; 140 killed in the Big Thompson Canyon near Denver, Colorado, July 31, 1976; 26 dead in Shady-side, Ohio, June 14, 1990.



**Powerful Hurricanes**  
In 2003, Hurricane Isabel was a Category 5. There have been three storms of Category 5 strength. They were the strongest to hit the United States since record-keeping began. Category 5 hurricanes pack sus-