

Table 388. Major U.S. Weather Disasters: 2006 to 2009

[5.0 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 (number)
2009 Southwest/Great Plains drought . . .	Drought conditions occurred during much of the year causing agricultural losses in TX, OK, KS, CA, NM, and AZ. The largest losses occurred in TX and CA.	Entire year 2009	Over 5.0	–
Western wildfires	Residual and sustained drought conditions across western and south-central states resulted in thousands of fires. Most affected states include CA, AZ, NM, TX, OK, and UT.	Summer–Fall 2009	Over 1.0	10
Midwest, South, and Eastern severe weather	Sustained outbreak of thunderstorms and high winds in TX, OK, MO, NE, KS, AR, AL, MS, TN, NC, SC, KY, and PA.	June 2009	Over 1.1	–
South/Southeast tornadoes and severe weather	Outbreak of tornadoes, hail and severe thunderstorms in AL, AR, GA, KY, MO, SC, TN—with 85 tornadoes confirmed.	April 2009	Over 1.2	6
Midwest/Southeast tornadoes	Outbreak of tornadoes in NE, KS, OK, IA, TX LA, MS, AL, GA, TN, KY—with 56 tornadoes confirmed.	March 2009	Over 1.0	–
Southeast/Ohio Valley severe weather . . .	Complex of severe thunderstorms and high winds in TN, KY, OK, OH, VA, WV, and PA. The majority of the damage occurred in OK and OH.	February 2009	Over 1.4	10
2008 widespread drought	Severe drought and heat caused agricultural losses in areas of the South and West. Record low lake levels. Also occurred in areas of the Southeast. Includes states of CA, GA, NC, SC, TN, and TX.	Entire year 2008	Over 2.0	–
Hurricane Ike	Category 2 hurricane made landfall in Texas as the largest (in size) Atlantic hurricane on record, causing wind and considerable surge in coastal and significant flooding damage in AR, IL, IN, KY, LA, MO, OH, PA, and TX.	September 2008	Over 27.0	82
Hurricane Gustav	Category 2 hurricane made landfall in Louisiana causing significant wind, storm surge and flood damage in AL, AR, LA, and MS.	September 2008	5.0	43
Hurricane Dolly	Category 2 hurricane made landfall in southern Texas causing considerable wind and flooding damage in TX and NM.	July 2008	Over 1.2	3
U.S. wildfires	Drought conditions across numerous Western, Central and Southeastern states (15) resulted in thousands of wildfires, national acreage burned exceeding 5.2 million acres (mainly in the West).	Summer–Fall 2008	Over 2.0	16
Midwest flood	Heavy rainfall and flooding caused significant agricultural loss and property damage in seven states with Iowa being hardest hit with widespread rainfall totals ranging from 4 to 16 inches.	June 2008	Over 15.0	24
Midwest/Mid-Atlantic storms	An outbreak of tornadoes and thunderstorms over the states of IA, IL, IN, KS, NE, MD, MI, MN, MO, OK, VA, WI, WV.	June 2008	Over 1.1	18
Midwest/Ohio Valley storms	Outbreak of tornadoes over the Midwest/Ohio Valley over the region (IL, IN, IA KS, MN, NE, OK, WY, and CO)—with 235 tornadoes confirmed.	May 2008	Over 2.4	13
Southeast/Midwest tornadoes	Series of tornadoes and severe thunderstorms across the Southeast and Midwest states (AL, AR, IN, KY, MS, OH, TN, TX)—with 87 tornadoes confirmed.	February 2008	Over 1.0	57
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	5.0	(²)
Western wildfires	Continued drought conditions and high winds over much of the Western United States, resulting in numerous wildfires.	Summer–Fall 2007	Over 1.0	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.	April 2007	2.0	–
Severe storms and tornadoes	Flooding, hail, tornadoes and severe thunderstorms across numerous Eastern and Southern states.	April 2007	1.5	9
Freeze	Widespread agricultural freeze over a good portion of California, destroying numerous agricultural crops.	January 2007	1.4	1

– 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, 1980–2009" (released January 2010).

See also <<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/reports/billionz.html>>.