

Table 375. Major U.S. Weather Disasters: 2005 to 2008

[2.0 represents \$2,000,000,000. Covers only weather-related disasters costing \$1 billion or more]

Event	Description	Time period	Estimated cost (bil. dol.)	Deaths
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 bil	–
Hurricane Ike	Category 2 hurricane makes landfall in Texas as the largest (in size) Atlantic hurricane on record, causing wind and considerable surge in coastal areas and significant flooding damage in AR, IL, IN, KY, LA, MO, OH, PA, and TX.	Sept. 2008	Over 27.0	82
Hurricane Gustav	Category 2 hurricane makes landfall in Louisiana causing significant wind, storm surge, and flood damage in AL, AR, LA, and MS.	Sept. 2008	5.0	43
Hurricane Dolly	Category 2 hurricane makes landfall in southern Texas causing considerable wind and flood damage in TX and NM.	July 2008	Over 1.2	3
U.S. wildfires	Drought conditions across numerous western, central, and southeastern states (15) caused thousands of wildfires that burned national acreage 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 6 inches.	June 2008	Over 15.0	
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 region (IL, IN, IA, KS, MN, NE, OK, WY, and CO).	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.	Feb. 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 U.S. 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.	Apr. 2007	2.0	–
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 affecting 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 6.0	(²)
Severe storms and tornadoes	Outbreak of tornadoes over portions of the midwest and south during a week-long period.	March 2006	Over 1.0	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 1.0	28+
Hurricane Wilma	Category 3 hurricane makes landfall in southwest Florida, causing considerable damage from major flooding and strong winds in southeast Florida.	Oct. 2005	Over 16.0	35
Hurricane Rita	Category 3 hurricane makes landfall on the Texas-Louisiana border coastal region, causing wind and surge damage along the coast and flood damage in FL, MS, LA, AR, and TX.	Sept. 2005	Over 16.0	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 in AL, FL, TN, KY, OH, and GA.	Aug. 2005	Over 125.0	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 2.0	12+
Midwest drought	Midwest drought caused crop losses in AR, IL, IN, MO, OH, and WI.	Spring–Summer 2005	Over 1.0	–

 – 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, 1980–2008" (released 1 January 2009). See also <<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/reports/billionz.html>>.