

December 30, 2022

2022 Year in Review: Billion-Dollar Disasters

Severe Weather & Tornadoes

- Nearly 1,330 tornadoes were recorded as relentless rounds of severe weather barreled across the country this year, according to preliminary storm data from the Storm Prediction Center (SPC).
- By March, severe weather season was in full swing. A severe thunderstorm outbreak on March 21 fueled a powerful EF3 tornado that tore through Jacksonboro, Texas. The twister damaged at least 80 homes and injured nine people as it ripped through the town located just northwest of Fort Worth.
- The severe weather continued moving east and created widespread destruction in Louisiana. In New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward, a ferocious and deadly EF3 twister rampaged through an area that Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Ida heavily impacted.
- According to the SPC, 14 fatalities were reported from severe weather across the U.S. in March alone.
- In April, May and June, more than 500 twisters were reported across the U.S.
- The severe weather season seemed to quiet as the summer months got underway. But it didn't stay quiet for too long. By November, more rounds of severe weather spun up across the country.
- At least two people were killed, and others were injured after an outbreak spawned across the southern Plains during the first week of November.
- During a severe weather outbreak in mid-December, an EF2 tornado ripped through Killona, Louisiana, which is located roughly 25 miles west of storm-weary New Orleans. At least one person died and several were injured following the twister that knocked down powerlines and blocked roads.

Derecho

- They are most common from May to August and mid-June proved to be the target date for this summer's derecho.
- The large-scale wind event developed on the northern flank of a heat ridge in southern Wisconsin on June 13 and swept into Ohio. Wind gusts 50 to 75 mph caused extensive damage.
- The highest record gust was Fort Wayne, Ind., Airport at 98 mph, which was the highest gust recorded at this airport.
- More than 500,000 people were left in the dark following the derecho. Damage estimates are \$2.9 billion.

Flooding

- From the Desert Southwest to the southern Plains and Midwest, epic deluges were common during the summer. Over a five-week period in the middle of the summer, five areas across the U.S. all experienced 1-in-a-1,000-year flooding events.

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- Yellowstone National Park closed in mid-June due to unprecedented rainfall which created extremely hazardous conditions, such as heavy flooding and rockslides.
- After a 67-day dry streak in Dallas, 8 to 16 inches of rain fell over a 24-hour stretch in the city. The heavy rain flooded buildings, submerged cars on interstates and caused the Trinity River to swell well beyond its normal water line.
- Historic and deadly flooding was also reported in St Louis, eastern Kentucky, southeastern Illinois and Death Valley, which all resulted in billions of dollars' worth of damage, according to an AccuWeather estimate.
- At least 39 people were killed in eastern Kentucky in late July after a repetitive rain system of "training thunderstorms."

Wildfires

- The combination of severe drought conditions and periods of extreme heat provided conditions favorable for a damaging western wildfire season across much of the West and Alaska.
- More than 7.4 million acres have burned so far nationally during the 2022 wildfire season, which is just slightly above the 10-year average of 7.2-million acres.
- The 2022 Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak Fire was the largest and most destructive wildfire in the history of New Mexico. The fire burned 341,471 acres between early April and late June in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains.
- This was the largest wildfire of the 2022 New Mexico wildfire season and the largest wildfire of 2022 in the contiguous United States. The fire destroyed at least 903 structures, including several hundred homes, and damaged 85 more, while threatening more than 12,000 other structures in the region.

Tropical Activity

- Although there were a total of 14 named tropical systems in the Atlantic Ocean basin during the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season, one storm will stand out in years to come.
- Hurricane Ian wrote a new chapter in weather history books as it brought destructive winds, disastrous storm surge and impressive rainfall totals to Florida in late September.
- On Sept. 23, Ian formed in the central Caribbean Sea, southwest of Jamaica. The storm steered across Cuba, surviving the island's mountainous terrain before it underwent rapid intensification in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The storm packed dangerous winds as it slammed into the southwest Florida coastline as a high-end Category 4 hurricane.
- Ian made landfall as the fourth-strongest hurricane in Florida's history when it roared ashore in Punta Gorda on Sept. 28 with wind speeds of 150 mph.
- The storm brought a catastrophic storm surge of 18 feet to the barrier island in southwest Florida and major flooding to the rest of the state. Heavy rainfall led to more than a dozen USGS river gauges across Florida exceeding major flood stages and rainfall totals surpassing two feet in many towns.

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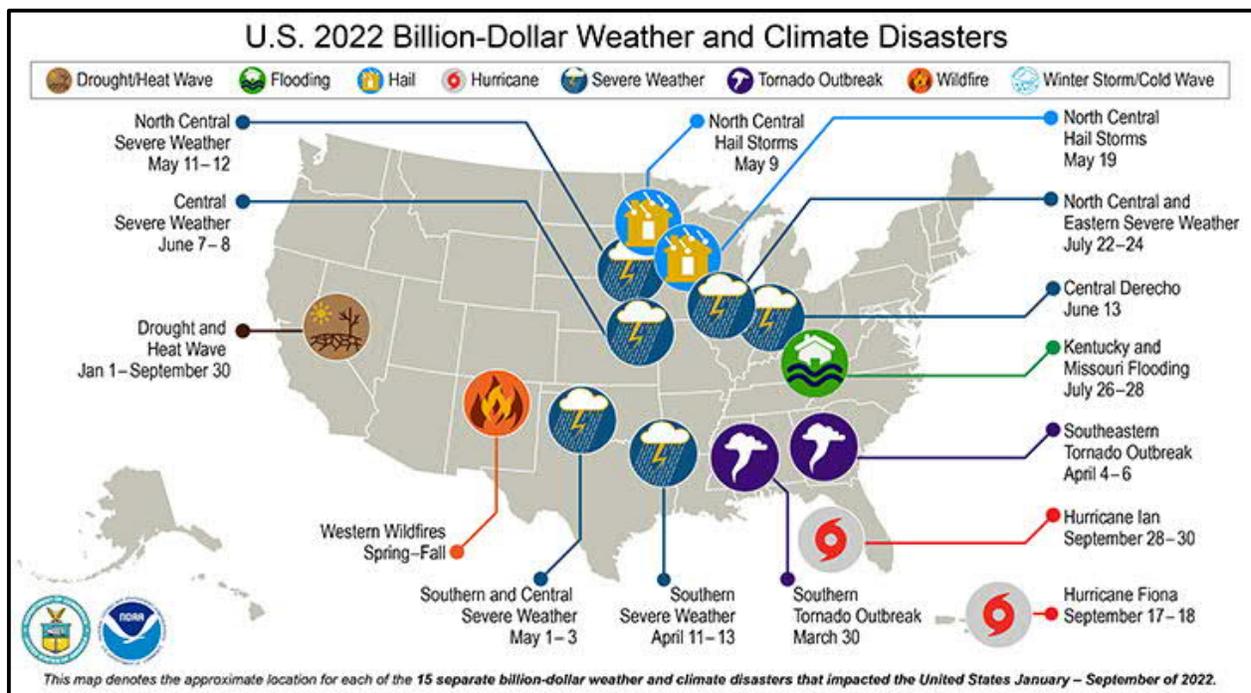
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- The death toll climbed for weeks following Ian. The storm killed at least 139 people in Florida alone, making it the deadliest hurricane in the state since the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane, which killed over 400 people.
- On the heels of Ian came Hurricane Nicole, which hit the eastern part of the state and caused severe erosion. It was the first time since 2005 the state was hit with two major hurricanes in the same season.
- Before Ian and Nicole, Hurricane Fiona wreaked havoc in Puerto Rico, testing the island's new infrastructure that had not been tested since Hurricane Maria in 2017.
- Despite being only an average hurricane season in the Atlantic, 2022 was the fifth costliest hurricane season racking up over \$56 billion of damage, most of which can be attributed to Major Hurricane Ian.

Winter Weather

- The year capped off with a deadly blizzard that claimed the lives of 57 people as it wreaked havoc across the U.S. over Christmas weekend.
- The majority of the deaths occurred in western New York, where 34 people died as a result of a massive lake-effect snowstorm.
- More than 4 feet of snow fell in places in western New York.
- New York Gov. Kathy Hochul described the storm as "the blizzard of the century."



Damage estimates from severe weather exceed \$29 billion. From epic western drought and wildfires to destructive storms, 2022 was a memorable and costly year for weather.

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Pending Individual Assistance Declaration Request

State	Event	Date Submitted	Approved/Denied /Pending	Number of Counties/Tribes
GA	Flooding September 4-14, 2022	10/4/2022	Pending	1 County/4 Cities
CA	Heat Dome and Wildfires Aug 29 & continuing	10/26/2022	Pending	6 Counties

WSP USA Inspection Services Active Disasters

Disaster Number and State	Disaster Type	Number of Counties Declared	Days Since Launch	Registration Deadline
4671 PR	Hurricane Fiona	78 Municipalities	98	11/21/2022
4673 FL	Hurricane Ian	26 Counties	89	1/12/2023
4677 SC	Hurricane Ian	3 Counties	35	1/23/2023

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES ACTIVITY

