



## Summary of Natural Hazard Statistics for 2009 in the United States



This National Weather Service (NWS) report summarizes fatalities, injuries and damages caused by severe weather in 2009. The NWS Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services and the National Climatic Data Center compiled this Summary of U.S. Natural Hazard Statistics from Storm Data, a report comprising statistics from NWS forecast offices in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

### Summary of 2009 Weather Events, Fatalities, Injuries, and Damage Costs

Weather Event	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage (million \$)	Crop Damage (million \$)	Total Damage (million \$)
<b>Convection</b>					
Lightning	34	201	43.86	0.01	43.87
Tornado	21	397	566.46	18.48	584.94
Thunderstorm Wind	22	190	1,398.02	32.57	1,430.59
Hail	0	70	1,440.00	349.67	1,789.67
<b>Extreme Temperatures</b>					
Cold	33	4	0.09	189.05	189.14
Heat	45	204	4.06	0.00	4.06
<b>Flood</b>					
Flash Flood	33	17	442.49	9.05	451.54
River Flood	23	10	607.78	29.23	637.01
<b>Marine</b>					
Coastal Storm	0	0	275.69	0.00	275.69
Tsunami	32	129	81.00	0.02	81.02
Rip Current	55	53	31.86	0.00	31.86
<b>Tropical Cyclones</b>					
Tropical Storm / Hurricane	2	1	0.92	0.01	0.93
<b>Winter</b>					
Winter Storm	21	394	341.06	0.50	341.56
Ice	7	5	1,170.96	0.00	1,170.96
Avalanche	7	3	1.00	0.00	1.00

<b>Other</b>					
Drought	0	0	0.05	49.58	49.63
Dust Storm	5	0	0.76	5.75	6.51
Dust Devil	0	3	0.23	0.00	0.23
Rain	6	9	5.65	0.16	5.81
Fog	0	0	2.76	0.00	2.76
High Wind	25	68	199.52	0.03	199.55
Waterspout	0	0	0.01	0.00	0.01
Fire Weather	2	109	110.82	1.38	112.20
Mud Slide	0	9	48.89	0.00	48.89
Volcanic Ash	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0	0	0.06	0.00	0.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>1876</b>	<b>6,773.98</b>	<b>685.49</b>	<b>7,459.47</b>

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Weather-related deaths were down in 2009 to 373 deaths, from 569 fatalities in 2008. This number is well below the 10-year average (2000-2009) of 577. Flooding was the most deadly hazard, claiming 56 lives in 2009, but down from 82 in 2008. Rip currents were the next most deadly weather category, with 55 victims. Thunderstorm and High Winds claimed 47 lives.

Of the 2009 weather-related fatalities, males again accounted for more than twice as many deaths (246) as females (119), a common pattern reflecting the higher percentage of men who hold outdoor jobs such as construction, and who take part in sports and other outside activities. Males were more likely to be victims in all age ranges except the 80-89 category. August was the deadliest month in 2009, claiming 56 lives, followed by June, during which 54 weather-related deaths were recorded.

Weather related injuries also were down in 2009. There were 1,876 reported weather-related injuries/illnesses, down significantly from 2,903 in 2008. Tornadoes caused the most injuries, with 397 reported victims, followed by tornadoes, with 394 injuries, heat with 204 victims, and lightning with 201 injuries.

Which state had the most dangerous weather in 2009? Florida won that dubious honor with 35 victims of various kinds of weather from lightning to cold, floods, thunderstorms and rip currents. American Samoa followed closely with 32 deaths, most if not all from the tsunami that struck the island. Illinois number 29 victims and Texas, 25 weather related deaths.

Extreme weather caused approximately \$7.5 billion in combined property and crop damages in 2009, down dramatically from \$30.3 billion in 2008. Property damages were estimated at \$6.8 billion, down from \$27.1 billion in 2008. In contrast to 2008 when coastal storms and tropical storms/hurricanes were the most destructive weather, in 2009, hail and thunderstorm damage caused the heaviest property losses. These two categories amounted to more than \$2.8 billion in damages. Crop damage was most affected by hail as well, which accounted for \$349.67 million in damages to farmers, followed by extreme cold, which accounted for \$189.05 million in losses.

Arkansas took the biggest hit in terms of combined property and crop damages in 2009, with \$1.1 billion in losses. Texas followed with \$852.8 million in losses. Louisiana came in third with \$783.2 million. Property damages mirrored total damages: Arkansas had the most property damage, more than \$1.1 billion, followed by Texas and Louisiana. Crop losses, however, were most severe in Iowa, which totaled \$337.88 million in losses, distantly followed by Texas, with \$71 million in losses.

### 2009 Summary of Fatalities for All Hazards by Age and Gender

	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Percent
0 to 9	6	9	0	15	4.02
10 to 19	8	23	0	31	8.31
20 to 29	15	24	0	39	10.46
30 to 39	9	30	0	39	10.46
40 to 49	22	48	0	70	18.77
50 to 59	16	38	0	54	14.48
60 to 69	15	26	0	41	10.99
70 to 79	13	24	0	37	9.92
80 to 89	10	9	0	19	5.09
90 to --	1	2	0	3	0.80
Unknown	4	13	8	25	6.70
<b>Total</b>	119	246	8	373	
<b>Percent</b>	31.90	65.95	2.14		

### 2009 Monthly Weather Related Fatalities

