Summary of Natural Hazard Statistics for 2014 in the United States

This National Weather Service (NWS) report summarizes fatalities, injuries and damages caused by severe weather in 2014. 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 2014 Weather Events, Fatalities, Injuries, and Damage Costs

Weather Event	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage (million $)	Crop Damage (million $)	Total Damage (million $)
Convection					
Lightning	26	154	30.22	0.01	30.23
Tornado	47	641	622.07	14.25	636.32
Thunderstorm Wind	31	233	232.57	143.38	375.95
Hail	0	23	1,416.88	294.34	1,711.21
Extreme Temperatures					
Cold	43	0	7.85	10.45	18.30
Heat	20	107	0.00	0.00	0.00
Flood					
Flash Flood	31	16	2,476.87	5.22	2,482.09
River Flood	9	4	148.98	137.41	286.40
Marine					
Coastal Storm	0	0	5.19	0.00	5.19
Tsunami	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rip Current	57	26	40.15	0.00	40.15
Tropical Cyclones					
Tropical Storm / Hurricane	0	0	3.49	0.20	3.69
Winter					
Winter Storm	21	874	56.24	0.00	56.24
Ice	0	2	29.81	0.00	29.81
Avalanche	21	18	0.32	0.00	0.32

Other					
Drought	0	0	10.12	1,513.84	1,523.95
Dust Storm	0	16	0.79	0.00	0.79
Dust Devil	0	0	0.06	0.00	0.06
Rain	3	4	2.27	62.50	64.77
Fog	1	1	3.31	0.00	3.31
High Wind	24	30	37.56	0.52	38.08
Waterspout	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fire Weather	2	38	323.84	1.19	325.03
Mud Slide	46	12	63.07	0.00	63.07
Volcanic Ash	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	6	4	0.08	0.00	0.08
Total	388	2203	5,511.72	2,183.30	7,695.02

Summary of 2014 Natural Hazard Statistics

For the third consecutive year, weather-related deaths dropped significantly. In 2014 there were 388 weather-related deaths, down from 448 in 2013 and 538 in 2012. The 2014 number is below the 10-year average (2005-2014) of 644 deaths. Rip currents replaced heat as the most deadly hazard in 2014, claiming 57 victims, but down from 65 deaths in 2013. Thunderstorm winds and high winds were the next most deadly weather events, claiming 55 lives, followed by tornadoes with 47 victims, and extreme cold, which claimed 43 lives.

Of the 2014 weather-related deaths, males, as usual, accounted for more deaths, 258 (66%), than females, 119 (31%). This gender breakdown is typical. In most years, there are almost twice as many male victims of extreme weather as female, a pattern likely reflecting the higher percentage of men who hold outdoor jobs such as construction and who take part in sports and other outside activities such as fishing and boating. In 2014, males were more likely to be victims in all age ranges except the 90+ category, where the percentage of women who reach this age range exceeds that of men. This year, males tied females for deaths in the 0-9 year old category, which sadly numbered 12 deaths for both boys and girls.

Which were the deadliest months in 2014? In a switch from the previous 2 years when summer heat pushed July to the top of the list, March numbered 58 victims, April, 53, and January, 50.

In 2014, weather related injuries and illnesses numbered 2,203 down from the 2013 total of 2,767 and the 2012 total of 2,653. Winter storms caused 874 injuries, followed by tornadoes, which took a grim second place with 641, down from 756 in 2013. Thunderstorms and high winds caused 263 injuries, followed by lightning with 154, up from 145 injuries in 2013.

Which state had the most dangerous weather in 2014? Washington, with 50 casualties, took that dubious honor from Oklahoma, which numbered 49 weather-related fatalities in 2013. A large number of the Washington deaths were due to debris flow (43). Arkansas and Illinois were the next hardest hit with 23 deaths each. Most of the Arkansas fatalities were attributed to tornadoes (17), while almost all the Illinois deaths (21) were due to extreme cold.

Total damages from weather in 2014 were just about two-thirds of the 2014 total. Extreme weather caused approximately $7.7 billion in combined property and crop damages in 2014, down from the 2013 total of $13.2 billion and a drastic drop from the 2012 total of $38.9 billion. Property damages were estimated at $5.5 billion, down from $8.8 billion in 2013 and down dramatically from 2012 total: $32.8 billion. The most costly weather culprit was flash floods, which caused almost $2.5 billion in damages, followed by hail ($1.4 billion) and tornadoes, ($622 million). Crop damages in 2014 totaled about $2.2 billion, half the 2013 total of $4.4 billion. Drought caused more crop damage than all other weather hazards combined, $1.5 billion, hitting California the hardest.

2014 Summary of Fatalities for All Hazards by Age and Gender

	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Percent
0 to 9	12	12	0	24	6.19
10 to 19	7	31	0	38	9.79
20 to 29	9	32	0	41	10.57
30 to 39	11	32	0	43	11.08
40 to 49	12	27	0	39	10.05
50 to 59	22	45	0	67	17.27
60 to 69	20	35	1	56	14.43
70 to 79	11	20	0	31	7.99
80 to 89	5	9	0	14	3.61
90 to --	6	4	0	10	2.58
Unknown	4	11	10	25	6.44
Total	119	258	11	388	
Percent	30.67	66.49	2.84		

2014 Monthly Weather Related Fatalities