

NLIHC's HoUSed Campaign for Long-Term Housing Solutions

June 24, 2025

Welcome & Updates



Noah Patton

Director of Disaster Recovery

National Low Income Housing Coalition

npatton@nlihc.org

Agenda



Administrative Impacts to the National Weather Service

- Zoe Middleton, Associate Director of Just Climate Resilience, Union of Concerned Scientists

Sheltering Preparedness for the Upcoming Season

- Katherine Galifianakis, Director of Shelter Transition, American Red Cross

How Non-Governmental Organizations are Responding

- Abre' Conner, Director, Center for Environmental and Climate Justice, NAACP

Disability Justice and Disaster Recovery

- Shaylin Sluzalis, Co-Director, Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies

Mutual Aid and Disaster Response and Recovery

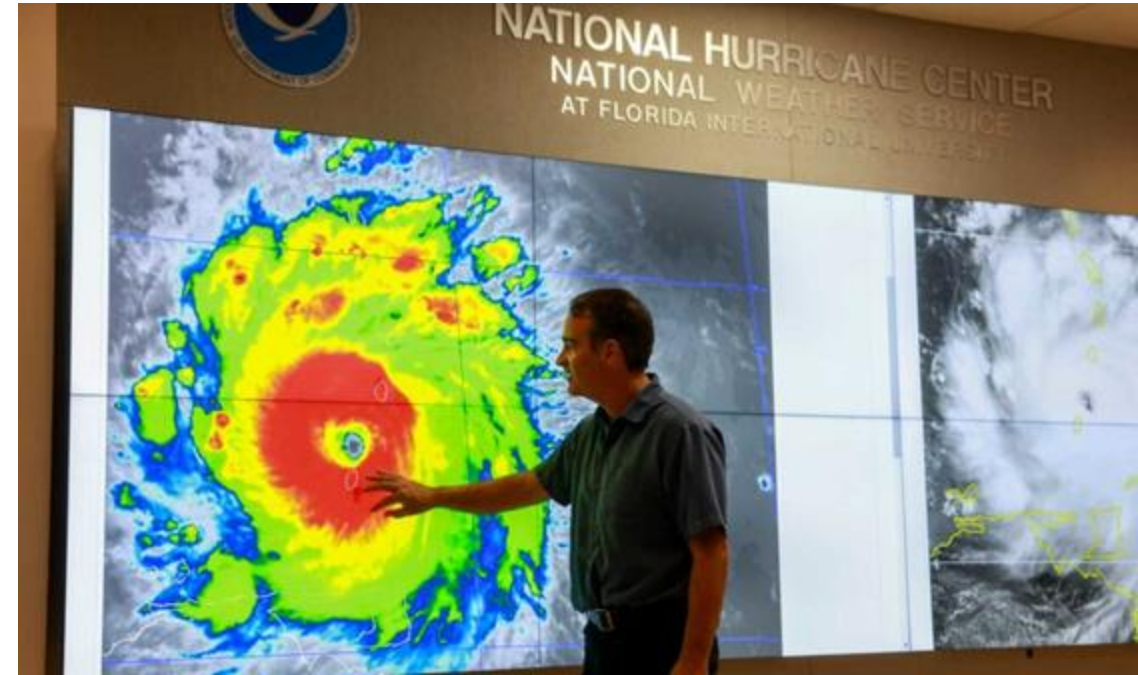
- Jena Garren, Mutual Aid Disaster Relief

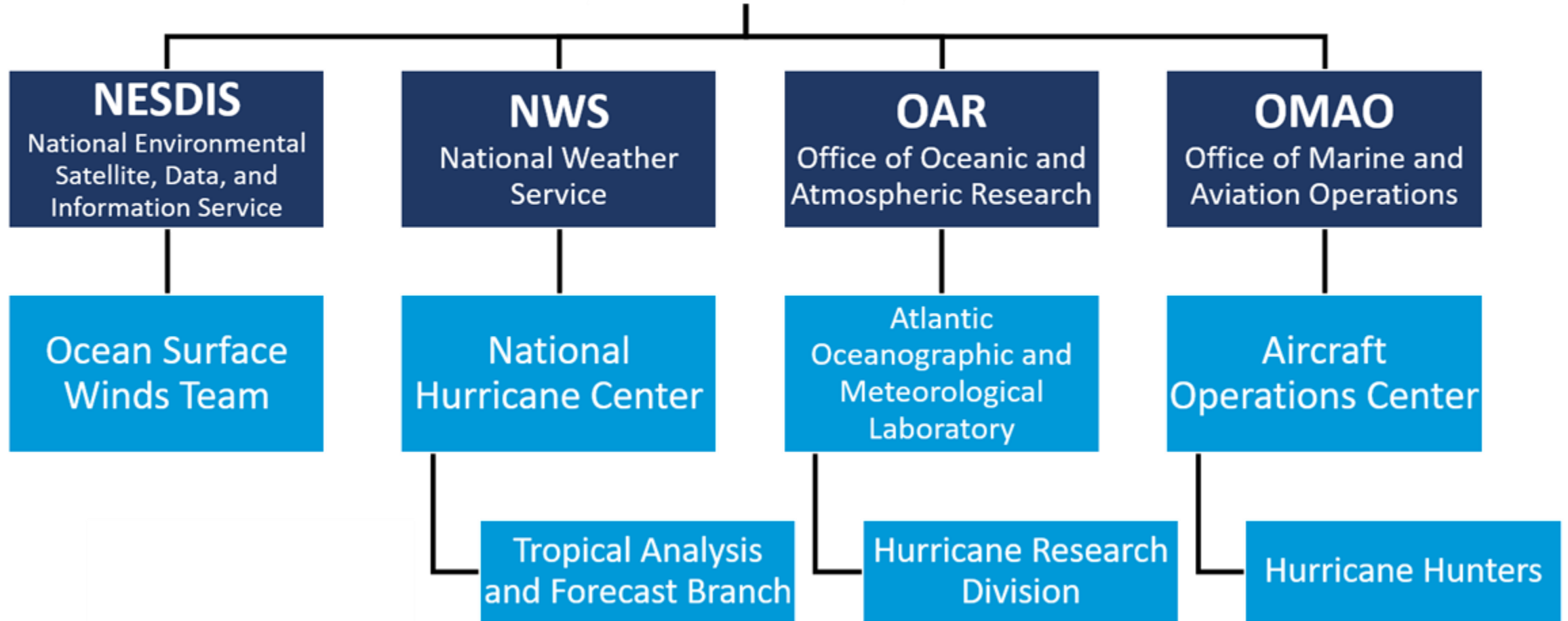
NOAA, NWS, and Danger Season

Zoe Middleton

Associate Director of Just Climate Resilience
Union of Concerned Scientists

- Immediate and long-term impacts
- Domestic and international impact
- Loss of data and capacity
 - Satellites, data systems
 - \$485 million in cuts to Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
 - Regional climate data; mid-June timeline for six RCC
 - Hurricane forecasting imperiled + rapid intensification trend
 - Unclear impact Atlas 15 rainfall data (due 2026-27) for infrastructure planning

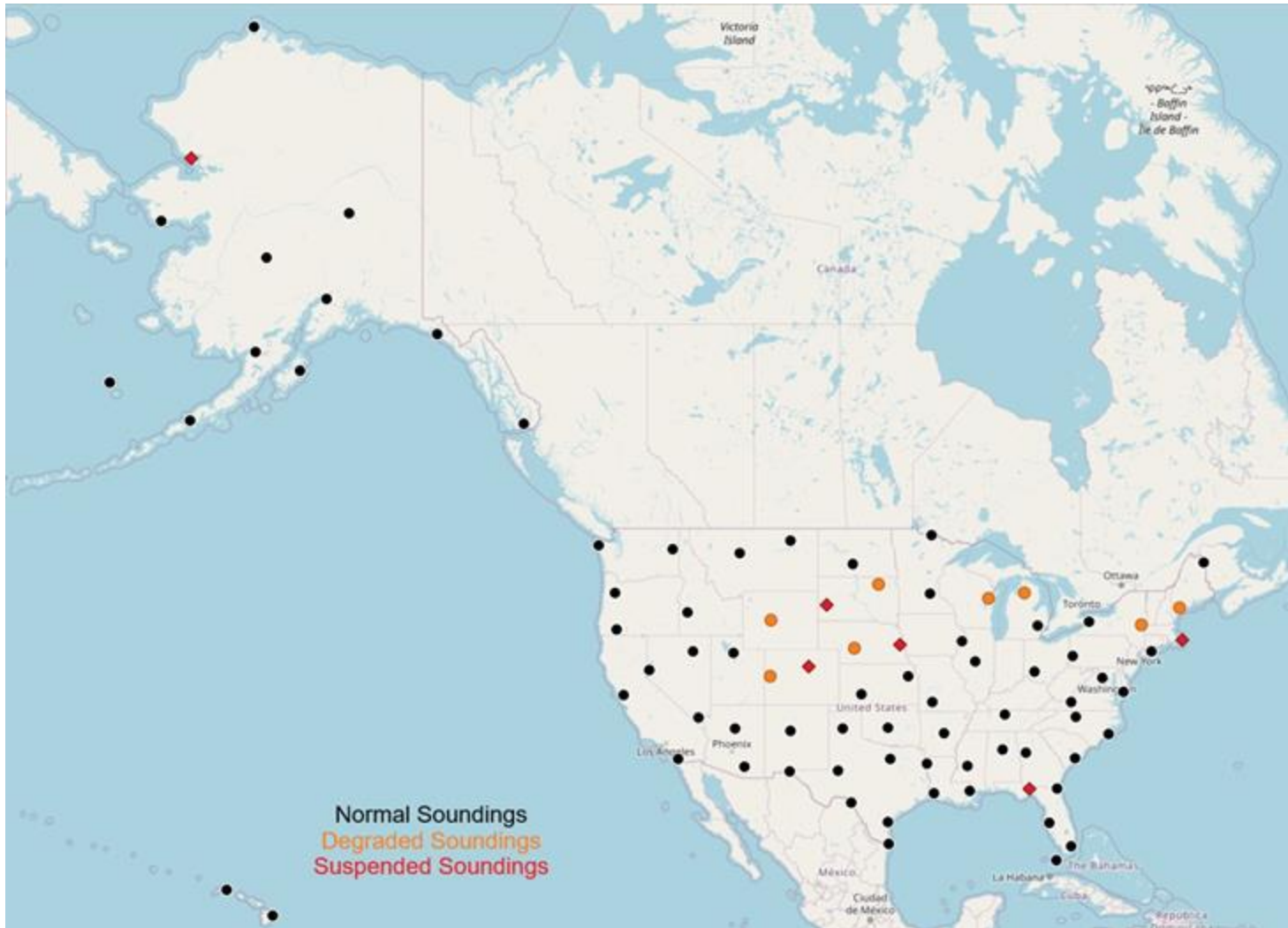




It's complicated.

Less capacity to do science.

560 fired at NWS alone, 125 hired for hurricane season



The current coverage of weather balloon launches in the United States (not including one in Puerto Rico and other launch locations in the Pacific Ocean). The orange dots denote NWS Offices with less balloon launch capacity (one per day instead of two), and the red dots denote NWS offices with balloon launch suspensions. Figure used with permission from the creator, Chris Vagasky (@coweatherman.bsky.social).

May 2, 2025

**An Open Letter to the American People
From All Former National Weather Service Directors**

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2026, just released by the White House, cuts the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) by close to 30%. While details aren't yet available, if earlier indications hold true this budget would essentially eliminate NOAA's research functions for weather, slash funding for next generation satellite procurement, and severely limit ocean data observations.

Even if the National Weather Service remains level funded, given the interconnectedness of all of the parts of NOAA, there will be impacts to weather forecasting as well. We cannot let this happen.

NOAA's satellites provide vital information about the formation and pathways of storms. NOAA research on severe storms has paved the way for tools we now use every day, such as Doppler radar and storm modeling advancements. NOAA Corps pilots fly into hurricanes to bring us real-time information on these increasingly severe storms. And data from ocean buoys add breadth and depth to our understanding of the interaction between the atmosphere and the sea.

These proposed cuts come just days after approximately 300 National Weather Service (NWS) employees left the public service to which they had devoted their lives and careers. That's on top of the approximately 250 NWS employees who were fired as a result of their probationary status in new—often higher-level positions—or took the initial buyout offered by the Trump Administration in early February. **That leaves the nation's official weather forecasting entity at a significant deficit—down more than 10% of its staffing—just as we head into the busiest time for severe storm predictions like tornadoes and hurricanes.**

NWS staff will have an impossible task to continue its current level of services. Some forecast offices will be so short-staffed that they may be forced to go to part time services. Not only are there fewer forecasters, there are also fewer electronic technicians, who are responsible for maintaining the critical NEXRAD radars. **Our worst nightmare is that weather forecast offices will be so understaffed that there will be needless loss of life.** We know that's a nightmare shared by those on the forecasting front lines—and by the people who depend on their efforts.

For example, airplanes can't fly without weather observations and forecasts; ships crossing the oceans rely on storm forecasts to avoid the high seas; farmers rely on seasonal forecasts to plant and harvest their crops which feed us. Additionally, dam and reservoir operators rely on rainfall and snowfall forecasts to manage the water supply; fishermen in the \$320 billion commercial fisheries sector rely on forecasts to stay safe as do tourism and recreational boating communities. Perhaps most importantly, NWS issues all of the tornado warnings, hurricane warnings, flood warnings, extreme wildfire conditions, and other information during extreme

weather events. **The dedicated staff at weather forecast offices around the country work 24/7/365 to make sure you get that information.**

A word about these public servants. They aren't nameless, faceless bureaucrats. They are your neighbors; your friends; the people who provide lifesaving information when you need it. They live and work in every community in the country. **Their dedication to public service - and public safety - is unparalleled.** They will often sleep in weather forecast offices to make sure poor weather conditions don't stop them from being on time for their shifts to do their critical work. They stay at their stations during hurricanes, tornadoes and other severe storms, even when extreme weather affects their own families. They make sure the complicated technology, like the radars we all see on television or on our apps, stay up and operating. They are the everyday heroes that often go unsung.

The NWS heroes who remain know that lives and livelihoods literally depend on the accuracy of weather forecasts as well as the prompt dissemination of that information to the people who need it. As former directors of the National Weather Service, we know firsthand what it takes to make accurate forecasts happen and **we stand united against the loss of staff and resources at NWS and are deeply concerned about NOAA as a whole. Join us and raise your voice too.**

Louis Uccellini, Ph.D., NWS Director 2013-2022

Jack Hayes, Ph.D., NWS Director 2007-2012

Brigadier General D.L. Johnson, USAF (Ret), NWS Director 2004-2007

Brigadier General John J. Kelly Jr., USAF (Ret), NWS Director 1998-2004

E.W. (Joe) Friday, Ph.D., Colonel USAF (Ret), NWS Director, 1988-1997

More scrutiny/hostility/disinformation.

News > Science

NOAA issues statement to confirm it doesn't control the weather after MTG and others spouted conspiracy theories

The Georgia Republican congresswoman has falsely claimed the government has the ability to control or manipulate the weather

Julia Musto • Thursday 24 October 2024 00:23 BST • 1 Comments



CLIMATEWIRE

Climate denial group wants to subvert NOAA data with its own

By SCOTT WALDMAN | 05/31/2024 06:17 AM EDT

The Heartland Institute seeks to build a nationwide network of temperature-monitoring stations.



A fisherman reels in his catch as the sun rises over the Atlantic Ocean on June 28, 2023, in Bal Harbour, Florida. Wilfredo Lee/AP

Increased need and unpredictability in extreme weather.

Katherine Galifianakis

Director of Shelter Transition

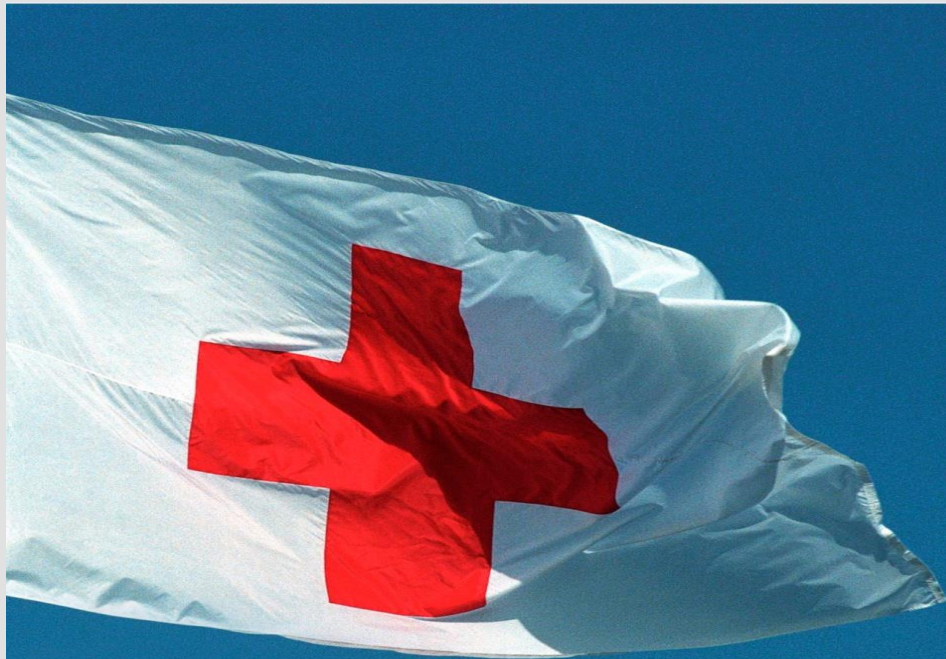
American Red Cross



2025 Disaster Briefing
NLIHC
June 24, 2025



American Red Cross



Mission

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.



**American
Red Cross**



American Red Cross

Our Services

Down the Street. Across the Country. Around the World.®



**Disaster
Services**



**Blood
Services**



**Preparedness,
Health and
Safety Services**



**International
Services**



**Service to the
Armed Forces**



American Red Cross

Our Work Impacts Lives Every Day

Every 60 seconds

23

people are assisted
by the American
Red Cross.



180

times a day, Red Cross
workers help a family
affected by a home fire
or other disaster.



1000

times a day, we
provide services to
military members,
veterans and their
families.



14,000

times a day, the Red
Cross needs blood
donations.



16,000

times a day, a person
receives lifesaving
Red Cross health and
safety training.



443,000

times a day, a child
receives a measles or
rubella vaccination
from the Red Cross
and our partners.





American Red Cross

We Work in National Partnership



NCLR
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA



When a disaster threatens, the American Red Cross

- Assists government agencies in disseminating official warnings
- Coordinates Red Cross resources for people displaced or evacuated (sheltering)
- Mobilizes trained volunteers to assist in response



When a disaster threatens, the American Red Cross

- Cover the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) - In-person/Virtual, State EOCs, JFO
- Assists in assessment of the extent of damage
- Sets up shelters and feeds evacuees in areas outside of the evacuation zones in coordination with the responsible state and local agency and in collaboration with other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)



When a disaster strikes, the American Red Cross provides



- Emergency Mass Care Assistance
 - Food for disaster victims and emergency workers
 - Temporary shelter (except for individuals with special needs)
 - Health Services staff to shelters
 - Clothing
 - Distribution of Emergency Supplies
 - Recovery information
 - Blood and blood products

When a disaster strikes, the American Red Cross provides

- Emergency Assistance on Individual Family Basis
- Emergency financial assistance
- Referral to government and community disaster programs
- Work with Unmet Needs in the community





Priorities 2025-2026

National Readiness Targets



All chapters will maintain 4-6 rostered shelter teams that can respond both in-state and out-of-state.

Regions will respond to thunderbolt exercises on their ability to open no-notice shelters.

Similar goals on other positions (mass care, logistics, EOC liaisons, etc).

Community and Partner Mobilization

Other Priorities

- National Transportation Safety Board, Family Assistance Centers, and Family Reunification Centers.
- Next of Kin and Fatality Information
- Zone Coordinators during Disasters
- Sheltering Timing Expectations with Counties
- Semper Gumbi & Staying Aligned





NAACP'S RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND ISSUES THAT CAUSE



Abre' Conner, Esq.

Director, Center for Environmental and Climate Justice,
NAACP

CLIMATE CHANGE



Pillars of Center for Environmental and Climate Justice Work



Zero Emissions



Sustainable Communities



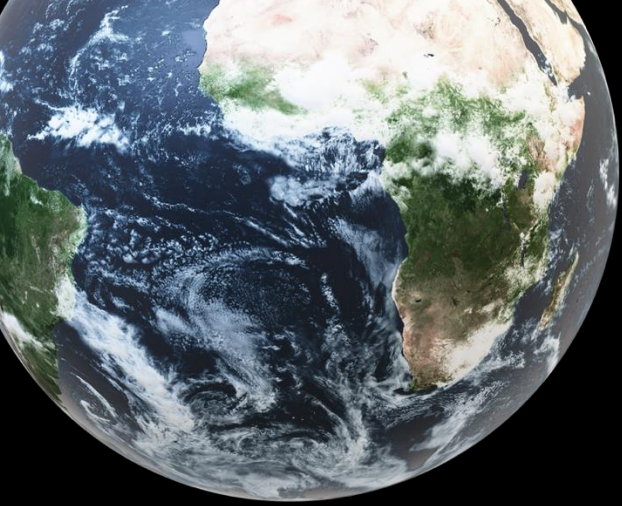
Energy Democracy



Right to Toxic Free Environment

Historical Roots of the Movement

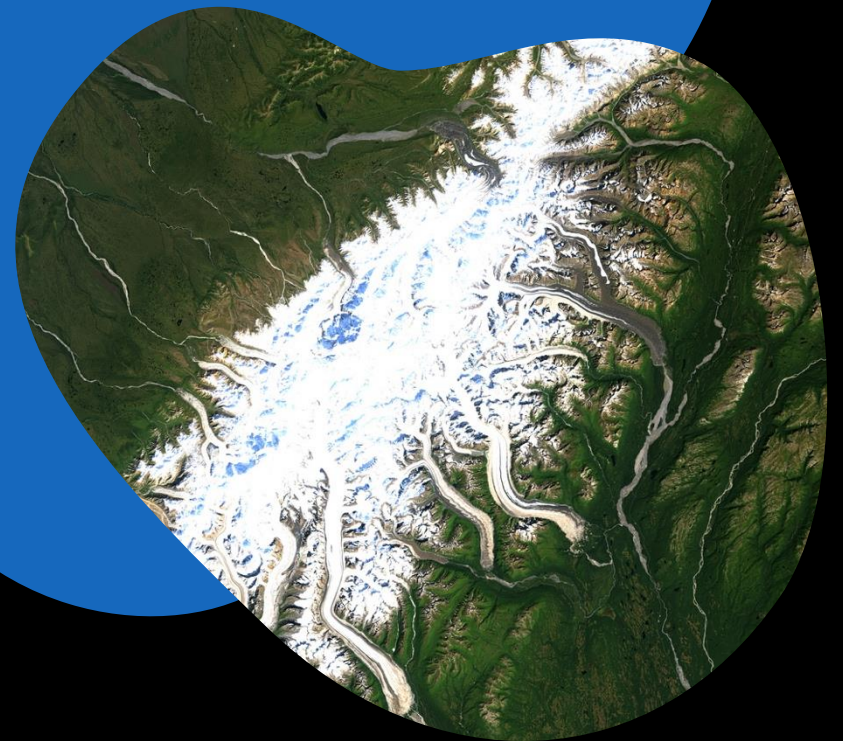




56%



Despite making up some of the smallest numbers for carbon footprint, Black people are more likely to live in places with extreme weather





“Given the disproportionate effect of these wastes on racial and ethnic communities, this has become not only an environmental issue, but a racial justice issue as well.”

DR. BEN CHAVIS AT PRESS CONFERENCE DURING REGAN ADMINISTRATION

Trends in Increase of Natural Disasters in Black Communities

2018

National Climate Assessment reports increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters in Black communities across the United States.

2020

Study finds Black communities are disproportionately affected by hurricanes, floods, and wildfires due to factors like infrastructure, housing, and socioeconomic status.

2021

Data shows Black households are 50% more likely to live in high-risk flood zones and 25% more likely to live near toxic facilities, increasing climate change vulnerability.

2022

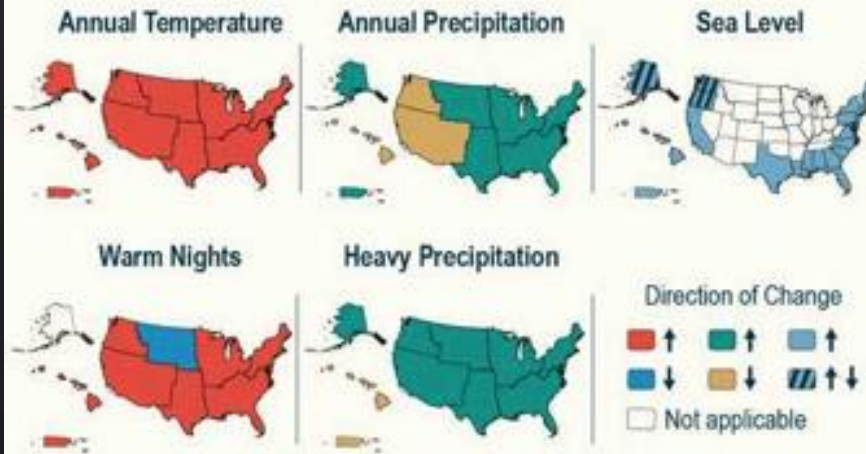
Analysis reveals Black communities experience 67% higher mortality rates from natural disasters compared to national averages.

2024

Fifth National Climate Assessment Shows Black communities are more likely to experience flooding

Climate Change Risks and Opportunities in the US

Climate change is happening now in all regions of the US



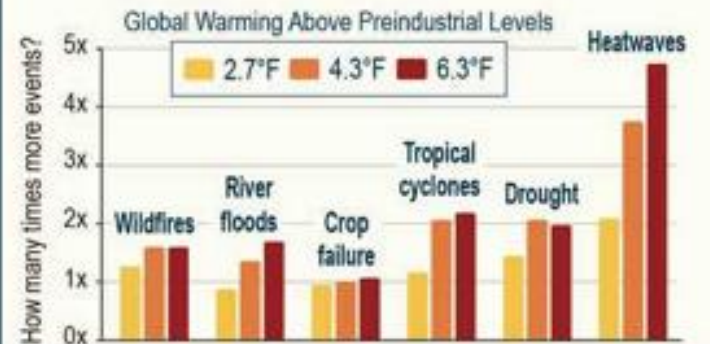
Each additional increment of warming leads to greater risks

Water supply
Food security
Infrastructure
Health and well-being
Ecosystems
Economy
Livelihoods and heritage



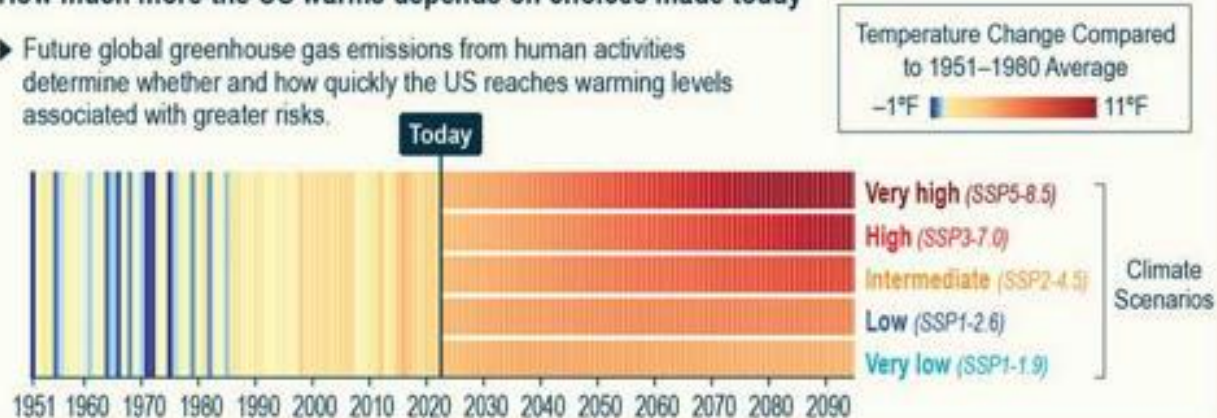
Without deeper cuts in global net emissions, climate risks to the US will continue to grow

► A person born in North America in 2020 will experience more climate hazards during their lifetime, on average, than a person born in 1965.



How much more the US warms depends on choices made today

► Future global greenhouse gas emissions from human activities determine whether and how quickly the US reaches warming levels associated with greater risks.



Action to limit future warming and reduce risks can have near-term benefits and opportunities





[NATURAL DISASTERS](#)

[NATURAL DISASTER RESOURCES](#)

[VOTING AFTER A NATURAL DISASTER](#)

[RECOVERY ASSISTANCE](#)

[More Info ≡](#)

NATURAL DISASTERS AND FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES

In fact, a 2019 study [found](#) that Black and Latinx residents in American counties that experienced \$10 billion in damages from natural disasters, such as hurricanes between 1999 and 2013, lost an average of \$27,000 and \$29,000, respectively. White people in counties with similar losses due to natural disasters instead gained an average of \$126,000.

SHARE



Hurricanes

Climate change has made hurricanes more intense, with warmer sea temperatures and rising sea levels increasing storm strength and storm surges. These heightened risks disproportionately affect low-income and marginalized communities, making Black populations particularly vulnerable to future storms. But hurricanes aren't just a coastal problem. Rain, wind, water, and even tornadoes can happen far inland. Start preparing now and determine your hurricane risk by visiting [Know Your Hurricane Risk](#).



Tornadoes

Tornadoes impact communities across the U.S. every year, bringing powerful winds and widespread destruction. While most common in the Central Plains, Midwest, and Southeast, tornadoes have been reported in all 50 states. Preparing in advance is key to keeping yourself and your loved ones safe. For more information on how to stay safe during tornadoes, review FEMA's [Tornado Hazard Information Sheet](#).



Wildfires

As more people move into arid grasslands, and other wild land areas, the risk of wildfires increases, often displacing communities. Currently, around 45 million people live in or near these wild areas, putting communities at heightened risk of damage. To explore your wildfire risk, visit the [Wildfire Risk Explorer](#).

Flooding

Black communities are expected to face disproportionate flood damage, making preparation crucial. Floods can cause widespread destruction, but proactive measures can help protect your home, business, and community. The [Heartland Disaster Help](#) page provides resources to dispel common flood misconceptions, offer flood insurance guidance

Earthquakes

Earthquakes are sudden, rapid shaking events caused by the breaking and shifting of underground rock. Understanding the risks and preparing ahead of time can greatly reduce the impact on you and your loved ones. For more detailed information on earthquake preparedness, review FEMA's [Earthquake Hazard Information Sheet](#).

Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is typically defined as a prolonged period (2 to 3 days) of high humidity, with temperatures exceeding 90 degrees. Understanding the risks in advance can help protect your community from heat-related health issues. Learn more about extreme heat at [Extreme Heat](#).

NAACP DISASTER RESILIENCY HUB



WHAT'S NEXT?

- Disaster resiliency presentations
- Toolkits
- Policy and legal strategies in the wake of a different federal structure
- Mobilization on the ground



Shaylin Sluzalis

Co-Director

Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies

Mutual Aid Disaster Relief (MADR)

Jena Garren

Neighbors Helping Neighbors |
HoUSed National Call – June 2025

Who We Are

- Mutual Aid Disaster Relief (MADR) is a decentralized network of autonomous volunteers.
- We support communities during and after disasters through solidarity, not charity.
- We believe in neighbors helping neighbors, especially when official systems fall short.

What We Do

- Provide food, water, medical care, basic shelter, and emotional support
- Offer skill shares on first aid, trauma response, mold cleanup, and solar charging
- Share resources, tools, and knowledge across autonomous groups
- Partner with existing community groups to strengthen local response

Real-World Lessons

- Local response is fastest when trust already exists
- Systems often fail, especially for the most vulnerable
- Mutual aid groups fill in the gaps, sometimes within hours of a disaster
- Flexibility and relationships matter more than hierarchy or funding

Preparing for Hurricane Season

- We're supporting local hubs with backup power, water filters, and first aid
- Helping communities build check-in systems and neighborhood contact trees
- Sharing guidance on storing meds, prepping go-bags, and creating cooling shelters
- Encouraging people to organize block-by-block, using trusted anchors like churches or libraries

How Mutual Aid Scales

- Mutual aid networks grow by being useful and consistent
- Mask Bloc LA expanded from COVID support to wildfire smoke relief
- Texas networks went from feeding dozens to thousands during the 2021 winter storm
- Local crews activate fast when they already have roles, trust, and supplies in place

What You Can Do Now

- Start a neighborhood contact list and check-in system
- Stock a small shared supply cache in your home or community space
- Host a basic prep or first aid skill sharing with friends or neighbors
- Map your area: who has what needs, and who has tools or skills to offer
- Join an existing group or seed a new pod with just one other person

Closing Thought

- Disasters show us who we are to each other.
- Mutual aid is not about waiting for rescue. It's about organizing to meet needs directly.
- Together, we can build the relationships and infrastructure that keep us safe—before, during, and after disaster.

Resources & Next Steps



Take action to [oppose the cuts](#) to FEMA

Contribute to NLIHC's Disaster Recovery, Research, and Resilience work by [registering](#) for the DHRC's bi-weekly call

Use [the DHRC Toolkit](#) for advocacy ideas, talking points, resources, and more

View [recordings](#) of previous National Calls and [register](#) for future calls.

Join our next National HoUsed Campaign Call:
Tuesday, July 8 at 4:00 -5:00 pm ET