



POLICY BRIEF

EXTREME WEATHER

- After extreme weather events, climate alarmists try to connect climate change to the event and its damage. Despite the claims of the Left and the media, science does not support the claim that “climate change” is increasing the frequency or intensity of weather events.
- There is no evidence for human activity causing more hurricanes or floods.
 - According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, “[c]urrent datasets indicate no significant observed trends in global tropical cyclone frequency over the past century and it remains uncertain whether any reported long-term increases in tropical cyclone frequency are robust, after accounting for past changes in observing capabilities.”¹
 - According to the U.S. Global Change Research Program, “[a]nalysis of 200 U.S. stream gauges indicates areas of both increasing and decreasing flooding magnitude but does not provide robust evidence that these trends are attributable to human influences.”²
- There is no connection between “man-made climate change” and drought in the U.S.
 - “... there has not yet been a formal identification of a human influence on past changes in United States meteorological drought through the analysis of precipitation trends.”³
- Since 2000, the area of the U.S. free from drought has actually increased.⁴
- The wildfires in California are a result of years of forest mismanagement, not climate change.
 - In 2018, the California independent state oversight agency the Little Hoover Commission found, “that California’s forests suffer from neglect and mismanagement, resulting in overcrowding that leaves them susceptible to disease, insects and wildfire.”⁵
- The costs of extreme weather events are not increasing due to the severity of the events. They are increasing because more people are building more expensive properties in susceptible areas.
 - “Long-term trends in economic disaster losses adjusted for wealth and population increases have not been attributed to climate change...”⁶
- Globally, disaster losses have actually decreased as a percentage of GDP.⁷

¹ IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)], https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/05/SYR_AR5_FINAL_full_wcover.pdf.

² USGCRP, 2017: Climate Science Special Report: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume I [Wuebbles, D.J., D.W. Fahey, K.A. Hibbard, D.J. Dokken, B.C. Stewart, and T.K. Maycock (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, https://science2017.globalchange.gov/downloads/CSSR2017_FullReport.pdf.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Roger Pielke, Jr., “A New US Areal No Drought Record,” May 16, 2019, <https://rogerpielkejr.com/2019/05/16/a-new-us-areal-no-drought-record/>.

⁵ Little Hoover Commission, *Fire on the Mountain: Rethinking Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada*, February 2019, <https://lhc.ca.gov/report/fire-mountain-rethinking-forest-management-sierra-nevada>.

⁶ IPCC, 2012: Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation, https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/SREX_Full_Report-1.pdf.

⁷ Roger Pielke, Jr., “Tracking Progress on Disasters, 2018 Update,” January 10, 2019, <https://rogerpielkejr.com/2019/01/10/tracking-progress-on-disasters-2018-update/>.