

Weather record tied: Most billion-dollar disasters

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(AP) -- This crazy year of weather extremes has tied another record: this one for most billion-dollar weather disasters.

The [National Weather Service](#) says nine weather disasters this year have each caused more than \$1 billion in damage. That ties 2008. And this year isn't near finished.

Weather Service Director Jack Hayes says the peak of [hurricane season](#) is just starting and the United States seems overdue for a hurricane smacking the coast.

The government has been tracking billion-dollar weather disasters for 30 years and the country normally averages about three a year.

The billion-dollar disasters included two floods, five tornado outbreaks and a blizzard. This year severe thunderstorms have also cost \$20 billion, double what's normal.

Hayes said his office will emphasize making the nation better prepared for weather disasters.

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