

4 new billion-dollar disasters bump year-to-date total to 12

October 11 2016, by John Leslie



Credit: NOAA Headquarters

Bouts of deadly, extreme weather continued to wreak havoc in many parts of the nation this summer.

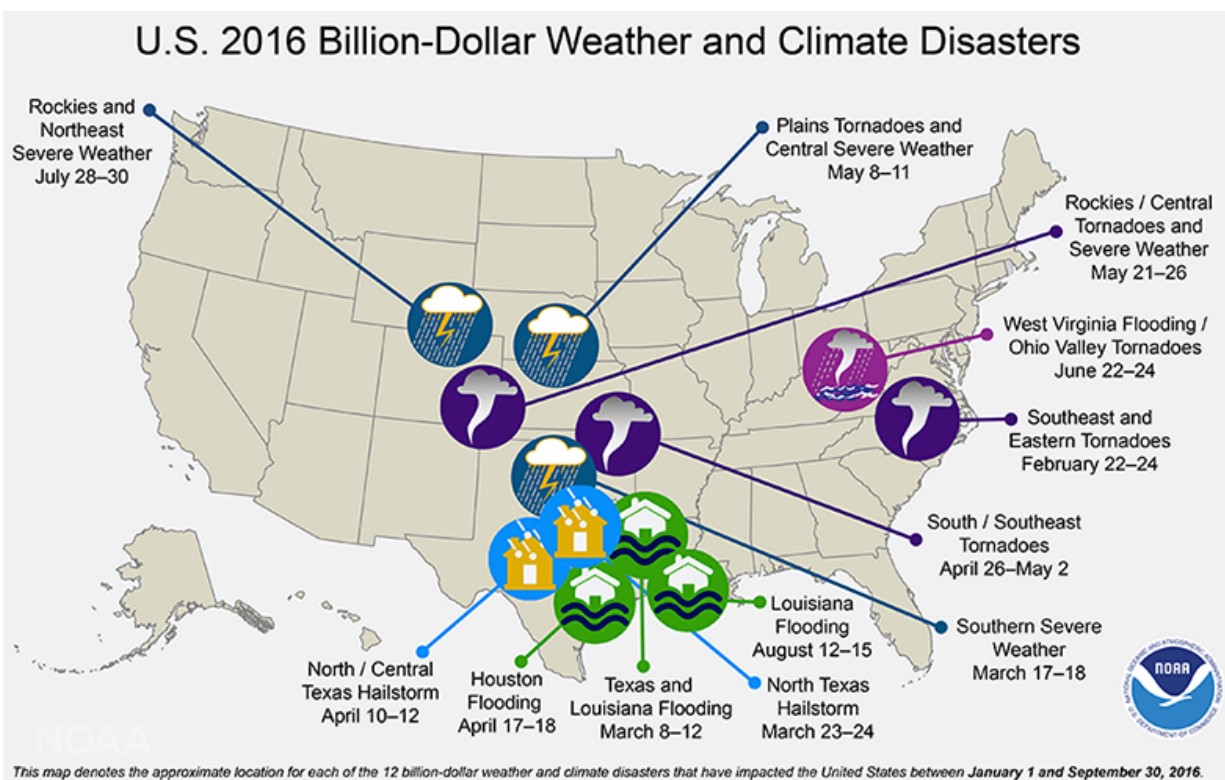
From May to August, the U.S. experienced four new billion-dollar weather and climate disasters:

- Tornadoes in the Plains and [severe weather](#) in the Central U.S. (May 8-11) resulted in two deaths and \$1.6 billion in damages;

- Historic flooding in West Virginia and tornadoes in the Ohio Valley (June 22-24) caused 23 deaths and \$1 billion in damages;
- Severe weather in the Rockies and the Northeast (July 28-30) caused \$1.1 billion in damages but no fatalities; and
- Massive flooding in Louisiana (August 12-15) resulted in 13 deaths and \$10 billion in damages.

These four [billion-dollar disasters](#), when added to eight earlier in the year, raised the tally to 12 in 2016 so far, which have claimed a total of 68 lives and caused \$26.9 billion in damages. This is the second highest number of disasters; it also doubles the previous record for the number of inland flooding events in one year.

Since 1980, the U.S. has experienced 200 weather and climate disasters, exceeding \$1.1 trillion in overall [damages](#), according to scientists from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information.



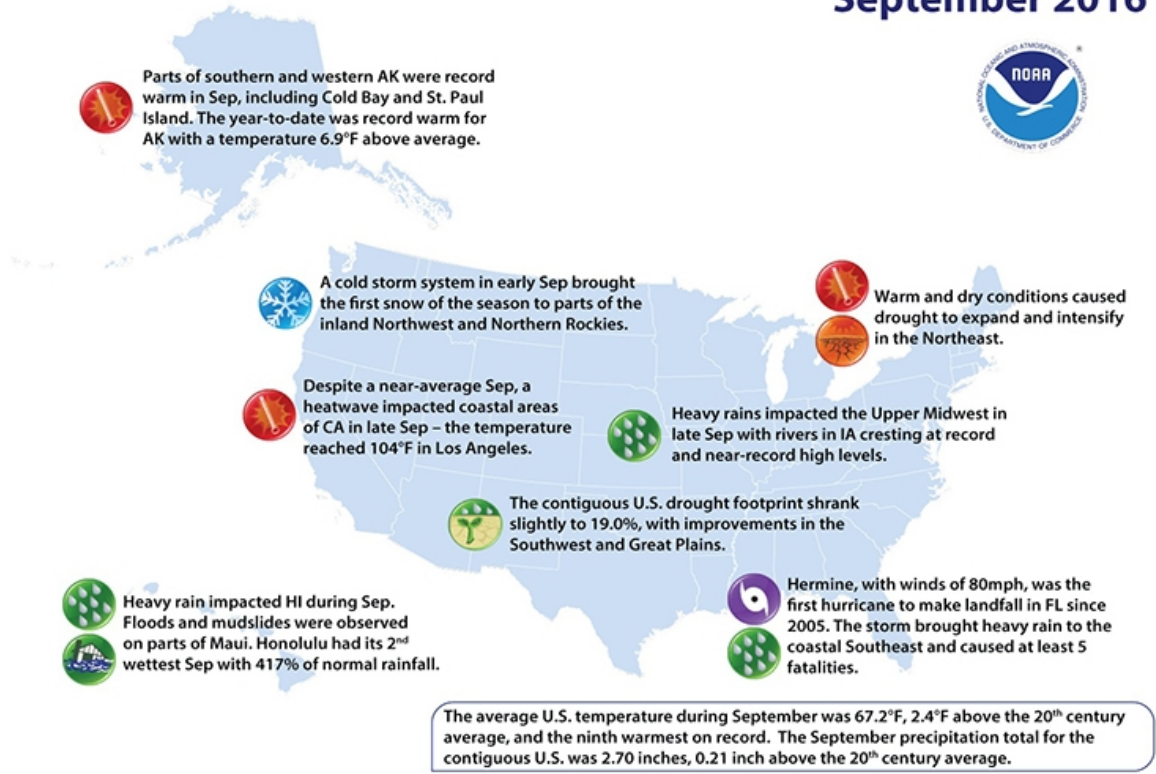
U.S. billion-dollar disasters map for 2016. Credit: NOAA Headquarters

September, by the numbers

In September, the average temperature across the Lower 48 states was 67.2 degrees F (2.4 degrees above the 20th-century average) making it the 9th warmest September in the 122-year record. September averaged 2.70 inches of precipitation, ranking about average.

For year to date (January-September) the contiguous U.S. was the second warmest and the 19th wettest on record. The [average temperature](#) was 57.8 degrees F (2.8 degrees above average). All forty-eight states observed much-above-average temperatures during this period. Precipitation was 1.57 inches above average.

U.S. Selected Significant Climate Anomalies and Events September 2016



Please Note: Material provided in this map was compiled from NOAA's State of the Climate Reports. For more information please visit: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc>

Map of some significant U.S. climate anomalies and events for September.
Credit: NOAA Headquarters

Other notable climate events in September included:

- Florida: Hermine, with winds of 80 mph, was the first hurricane to make landfall in Florida since Wilma in 2005.
- Iowa: Heavy rains impacted the Upper Midwest with rivers in Iowa cresting at record and near-record high levels.
- Hawaii: Heavy rain impacted the state causing floods and mudslides on some islands. Honolulu had its second wettest

September, with 417 percent of normal rainfall.

- Alaska: Parts of southern and western Alaska were record warm, including Cold Bay and St. Paul Island. The year-to-date was record warm for the state with a temperature 6.9 degrees F above average.

More information: The billion-dollar disaster website:

www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/overview

Provided by NOAA Headquarters

Citation: 4 new billion-dollar disasters bump year-to-date total to 12 (2016, October 11) retrieved 4 August 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2016-10-billion-dollar-disasters-year-to-date-total.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.