

# Talk to Your Patients about Extreme Weather Events and Health Impacts

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/climate-health/index.html>

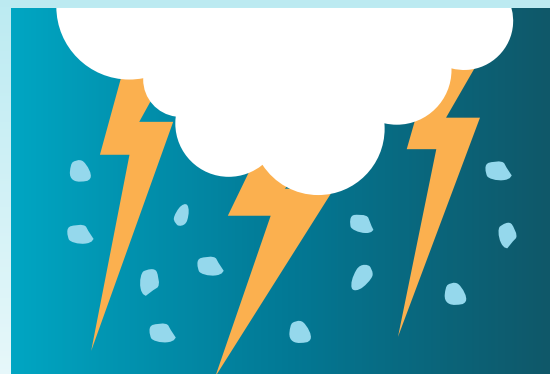
Precipitation, hail, floods, drought, heat events, and wildfires are expected to become more frequent and severe due to climate change.<sup>1</sup> These extreme weather events will negatively impact human health and well-being, property, the surrounding environment, infrastructure, and ecosystem services.<sup>1</sup> These hazards can negatively impact mental and physical health. Review this information and share with your patients.

## Takeaways for Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, and Clinics

- Ensure that generators and critical infrastructure are located in areas protected from severe weather or flooding.<sup>2</sup>
- Review emergency plans and consider disproportionately impacted regions of your community.<sup>3</sup> The FEMA National Risk Index can help you understand the factors shaping your region's risk profile.<sup>4</sup>
- Healthcare systems should increase assistance to populations that are at disproportionate risk during disasters.<sup>5, 6</sup> Increasing access to mobile health services and telemedicine can ensure that primary healthcare needs are addressed during these challenges.<sup>7</sup> Integrating screening questions for unmet social needs and mental health can help you identify patients who may be disproportionately impacted.<sup>8</sup>
- Consider preemptively addressing healthcare needs such as refilling medications and oxygen tanks and scheduling dialysis sessions for patients with chronic conditions.<sup>3, 7, 9</sup>

## Advice for Your Patients

1. Tell patients to prepare for emergencies in advance.<sup>10</sup> When extreme weather is in the forecast, suggest patients prepare an emergency 3-day water supply for each person and pet in their home.<sup>11</sup>
2. Ensure patients know shelter locations, evacuation routes, how to receive warnings, and how to operate generators safely.<sup>10, 12, 13</sup>
3. Encourage wearing a medical alert bracelet or other identification.<sup>14</sup>
4. Encourage people with disabilities to sign up for Smart 911 or similar registries.<sup>15</sup>



## Populations at Greater Risk<sup>1</sup>

- Infants and children
- Pregnant women
- Adults over 65 years old
- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)\*
- People experiencing homelessness
- People with lower incomes
- Rural populations
- Outdoor workers
- People living in mobile homes
- People with disabilities
- People with mental health conditions
- People with chronic health conditions

\* BIPOC refers to racial and ethnic communities, such as Black, Indigenous, Asian, Latino/Hispanic, and Middle Eastern



# Climate Change Medical Factsheets Footnotes

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