



Climate Change and Extreme Weather

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Temperature extremes

- Frequency and intensity of heat waves will increase in a warming climate.

Hydrologic extremes

- Climate models project that heavy rains will become heavier and dry spells will lengthen in a warming climate.

Severe thunderstorms and tornadoes

- Climate models cannot directly simulate these extreme weather events, but they do project an increase in environmental conditions favorable for their formation. (More research needed.)



Wildfires

- Higher temperatures lead to more favorable conditions for wildfires to occur, particularly in seasonally dry climates such as those in the western United States.

Hurricanes

- Hurricanes are expected to become stronger because of warming oceans, but not necessarily more frequent. This is an area of very active research.

Coastal flooding

- Sea level rise will raise the baseline for coastal flooding events, which will make such events more frequent in the future.

