

Climate and Health Resources: COLORADO



Climate change poses risks to human health. [Already in the United States](#), we are seeing rising temperatures, increased frequency and intensity of some types of extreme weather, sea level rise, and other changes in weather and climate patterns. We are all vulnerable to the health impacts associated with climate change. However, these climate and health risks vary across the country.

Most of Colorado has warmed 1°F or 2°F in the last century. This and other climate impacts mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Colorado residents include:

- **Large wildfires are occurring more often, and wildfire seasons are lasting longer.** This increases health risks such as those related to smoke inhalation and evacuations. [Learn how you can take action to protect against wildfires](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Keep your air-conditioning filter clean, and close the unit's fresh air intake.
 - **Respond:** Check local news and reports for information on air quality, visibility, and evacuation orders.

- **More floods will occur in some mountain watersheds.** Floods, like the 2013 Colorado Front Range Flood, can lead to illness, injury, and deaths. [Learn how you can take action to protect against floods](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Ask someone out-of-state to act as a "family contact" in case your family is separated.
 - **Respond:** Avoid driving or walking in or near flood waters, even after the flood or during cleanup.

- **The Southwest is likely to face more frequent and intense droughts.** Droughts limit the availability and quality of drinking water. [Learn how you can take action to protect against droughts](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Reduce water use. For example, use low-flow faucets.
 - **Prepare:** Be aware that droughts may reduce the quality of drinking water from private wells.

Learn more in the [USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment](#).

The examples of risks and actions provided in this document are not a comprehensive list. They provide users with illustrative impacts and resources for further information. Examples were selected based on relevance to the state or region and representation of a diversity of health threats. Selection does not imply ranking of severity of impacts nor prioritization of actions. The examples of impacts are based on "The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment," available at <https://health2016.globalchange.gov>, as well as the National Climate Assessment at <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>

RESOURCES FOR COLORADO RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn more: What Climate Change Means for Colorado	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn more: National Climate Assessment: Southwest	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Explore Actions: Colorado Climate Preparedness Project Final Report, 2011 <i>Includes Health Concerns for: Extreme Heat, Drought</i>	State of Colorado
	Explore Actions: Colorado Climate Plan: State Level Policies and Strategies to Mitigate and Adapt, 2015 <i>Includes Health Concerns for: Air Quality, Vector-Borne Disease, Emergencies and Disasters</i>	State of Colorado
	Explore Actions: City and County of Denver, Colorado Climate Adaptation Plan	City of Denver, Denver County, Denver Department of Environmental Health. June 2014.
	Explore Actions: Boulder County Climate Change Preparedness Plan	Boulder County Commissioner's Sustainability Office. May 2012.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 8 (Mountains and Plains)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	State of Colorado
	Find Resources: Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	State of Colorado