

KEY FACTS

Americans Face a Triple Danger Season This Summer

Congress Must Help Protect Us

Extreme weather is hammering the United States. Much of the nation is enduring record heat — the deadliest weather hazard in the US — while wildfire smoke chokes whole regions, drought grips most of the West, and flash floods hit the central US. A strengthening El Niño, potentially the strongest on record, adds a dangerous wild card.

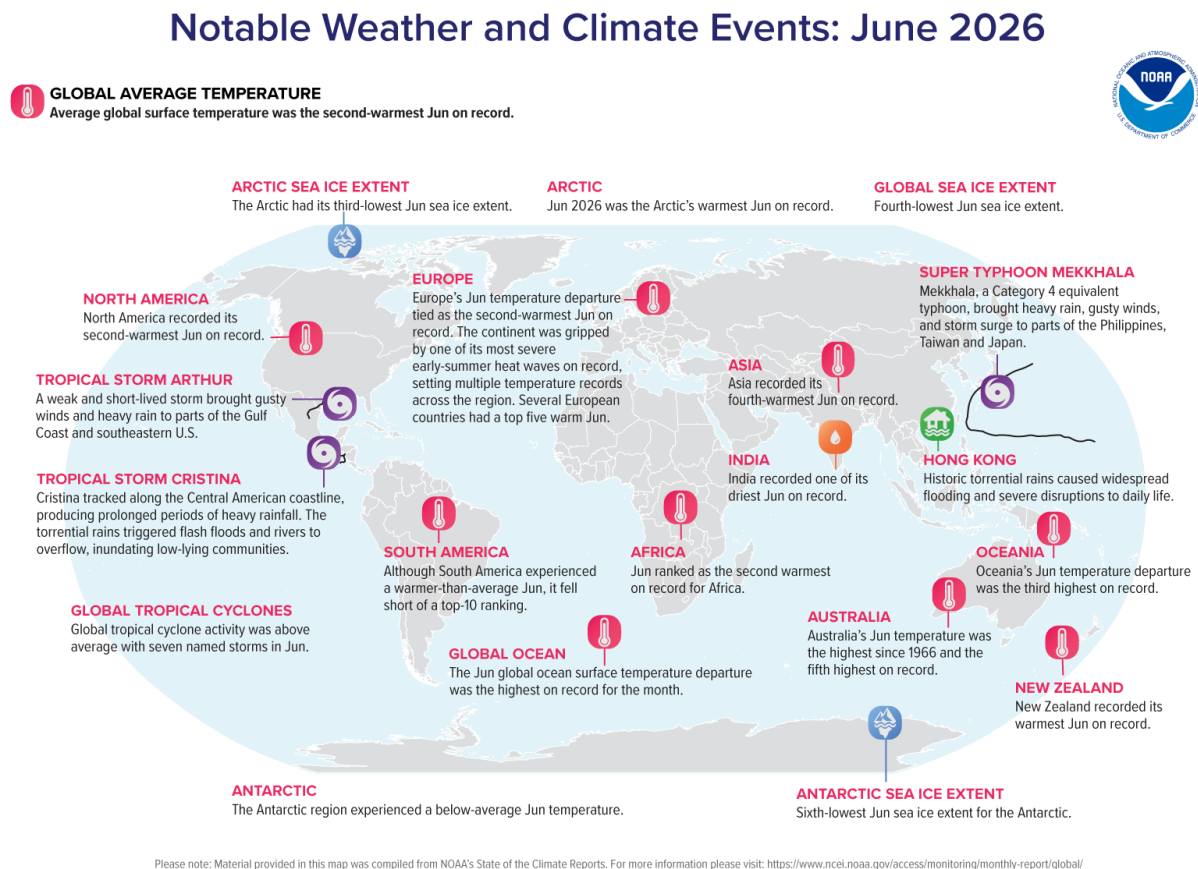
This August recess falls in the heart of “Danger Season” — the May-to-October stretch when people in the U.S. are hit hardest by extreme heat, drought, wildfire, flooding, and storms, all made worse by fossil-fueled climate change. Each year brings new degrees of danger, but 2026 is uniquely perilous, as three crises collide: intensifying climate extremes, a reckless Trump administration, and deepening economic insecurity.

Rather than help Americans manage these threats, the Trump administration is dismantling the systems that help keep people safe: cutting NOAA’s forecasting and early warnings, hollowing out FEMA’s disaster response, rolling back clean air protections and attacking clean energy solutions to boost fossil fuel profits.

Climate extremes are also colliding with an affordability crisis for many. As reckless tariffs, handouts for fossil fuels, blocking of clean energy, and a heedless data center build-out push up the cost of electricity, food, and gas, working families face tough choices between paying for essentials like food and medicine and cooling their homes.

We need Congress to stand up for constituents and do its job. Members should protect life-saving weather and climate science at NOAA and NCAR, restore and strengthen FEMA and resilience programs, protect people from dangerous heat at home and at work, advance clean energy solutions, and confront data center harms — while ensuring no immunity for Big Oil against legal and financial accountability for climate change damages. Congress should also hold the Trump administration accountable for its attacks on science and for withholding and politicizing Congressionally authorized funding.

Figure 1. NOAA's Global Climate Report



The June 2026 global surface temperature was 1.09°C (1.96°F) above average—the second warmest June in the 177-year record. For more information, visit <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/monthly-report/global/>