

Climate and Health Resources: OREGON



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.

Over the past century, Oregon has warmed about 2°F. This and other climate impacts, like more frequent wildfires and warming oceans, mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Oregon 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.

- **Sea level rise and coastal droughts can cause saltwater to move into fresh groundwater,** threatening drinking water supplies. [Learn how you can take action to ensure drinking water safety](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Have an emergency water supply ready for your family (1 gallon per person/pet per day).
 - **Respond:** Check the news for tap water safety notices, such as boiling water before use.

- **Harmful algal blooms that contaminate shellfish have become more frequent** along the Pacific Northwest coast and estuaries. Rising temperatures will lengthen the season for harmful blooms in the Puget Sound. This especially affects tribes that traditionally depend on shellfish harvests. [Learn how you can take action to ensure food safety](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Check for beach closures or health department notices before swimming, fishing, or harvesting shellfish.
 - **Respond:** Keep seafood chilled to less than 38°F. Discard any perishable food if your refrigerator has lost power for longer than four hours.

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 OREGON RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn More: What Climate Change Means for Oregon	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Northwest	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Explore Actions: A Community Climate and Energy Action Plan for Eugene, Oregon	City of Eugene, Oregon. September 2010.
	Explore Actions: City of Portland and Multnomah County, Oregon Climate Action Plan 2009	City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Multnomah Sustainability Program. October 2009.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 10 (Pacific Northwest)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Oregon Health Authority	State of Oregon
	Find Resources: Oregon Office of Emergency Management	State of Oregon
Climate and Health Resources	Explore Actions: Oregon Climate and Health Profile Report	Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division. September, 2014.