

Climate and Health Resources: UTAH



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.

Utah has warmed about 2°F in the last century. This and other climate impacts, like wildfire and drought, mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Utah residents include:

- **Higher temperatures will increase heat-related illnesses, hospital visits, and deaths.** In Salt Lake City and other large cities, urban heat island effect will make heat events worse. [Learn how you can take action to protect against heat waves](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Drink plenty of water.
 - **Respond:** Check on elderly neighbors or anyone else who may need assistance.

- **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.

- **The Southwest is likely to face more frequent and intense droughts.** Droughts limit the availability and quality of drinking water. Navajo communities in southeastern Utah already face a lack of water for their households and farming. [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 UTAH RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn More: What Climate Change Means for Utah	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: South West	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 8 (Mountains and Plains)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Utah Department of Health	State of Utah
	Find Resources: Utah Division of Emergency Management	State of Utah
Climate and Health Resources	Learn More: Climate Change and Public Health in Utah	Utah Department of Health. 2012.