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Broadcast News Scripts
The Connections between Extreme Weather and Climate Change

The following scripts enable the broadcast news media to add clear, fact-based context to their segments on extreme weather disasters.

They have been vetted by Dr. Michael Mann, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science at Penn State U, and Dr. Peter Kalmus, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and are followed by a list of references.

Headline Statements

*Climate change is making extreme weather more common and more dangerous.[1]

*Climate change is increasing the risk multiple disasters will happen at the same time.[2]

*Extreme weather disasters will continue to get worse until after we stop using fossil fuels.[3]

Heat Waves

*Heat waves are becoming hotter, longer lasting, and more common due to climate change.[4]

*Climate change has already caused record-breaking heat waves in 2018 and 2019.[5]

*Heat waves kill more Americans than any other extreme weather.[6]

Wildfires/Bushfires

*By making fire-prone areas hotter and drier, climate change is increasing the size and danger of catastrophic wildfires.[7]

Tropical Storms

*Climate change is making hurricanes bigger and more powerful. As our planet has gotten hotter, category 4 and 5 hurricanes have increased 30%.[8]

*Flooding from hurricane downpours is increasing due to climate change. A hotter atmosphere holds more moisture, which falls as extreme rain.[9]

*Scientists say climate change increases the potential for hurricanes to stall over land, compounding flooding and other storm damage.[10]

*Most deaths from hurricanes are caused by drowning.[11]

*Scientists are 99-100% sure that climate change is causing the number of strong hurricanes in the North Atlantic to increase.[12]

Droughts

*Climate change is increasing the risks of drought in the following regions:

Africa (Africa's climate is increasingly alternating between extreme droughts and floods)[13]

Australia[14]

central America[15]

north America, especially the southwestern US[16]

southern Europe and the Mediterranean[17]

Extreme Rainfall and Floods

*Climate change is making rainfall more extreme. Our planet has already warmed an average of 1°C, and the atmosphere holds more moisture as it warms.[18]

*Climate change is increasing the risks of flooding in the following regions:

Africa (Africa is increasingly alternating between extremes of drought and flood.)[19]

the central and eastern US[20]

the Indian subcontinent[21]

northern Europe[22]

Russia[23]

western China[24]

Tornadoes

*Warmer waters in the Gulf of Mexico are making Spring thunderstorms and tornadoes in the Deep South more intense.[25]

*As air in the southeastern US becomes drier due to climate change, "Tornado Alley" is moving east, with twisters now threatening people who live in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri, and Illinois.[26]

For more see: https://www.worldweatherattribution.org/

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