



Better Communication for Better Health: Supporting Well-Being in Extreme Weather

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

12:00 – 1:00 pm ET / 9:00 – 10:00 am PT

This event will be recorded. The recording of will be available on publichealthcollaborative.org by the end of this week.

All attendees are automatically muted upon entry.

Meet Today's Experts



Kate McLaughlin

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Founder and Executive Director,
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ASL and Closed Captioning

ASL interpretation: ASL interpretation is being provided by Keystone Interpreting Solutions, with interpreters Hannah and Kyle.

To activate Closed Captions: Click on the “More” button located on the Zoom toolbar and select “Show Captions.”

Don't Forget to Use the Chat

Ask questions in the chat or by using Zoom's Q&A or Chat function throughout the webinar.

We'll do our best to get to all your questions during today's Q&A.

Extreme weather is accelerating...

The United States experienced **12** billion-dollar weather and climate disasters in just the first six months of 2026.

Back-to-back heat domes in June and July put more than 130 million Americans under extreme heat conditions at once.

This summer, more than 120 million Americans across the Midwest and Northeast lived under air quality alerts from Canadian wildfire smoke.

The average gap between billion-dollar weather and climate disasters has fallen from **82 days** in the 1980s to about **16 days** over the past decade.



Source: Climate Central Mid-2026 Update:
<https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-matters/mid-year-billion-dollar-disasters>

Impact on physical health

Heat

U.S. heat-related deaths climbed 124% since 1999, from 1,069 that year to a record 2,415 in 2023, with roughly 70,000 ER visits and 10,000 hospitalizations happening each year.

Smoke

Emergency room data show asthma attacks spike within a single hour of a severe smoke plume arrival.

Cardiovascular events, including heart attacks and strokes, see a corresponding surge within 24 to 48 hours.

Flooding

Floods can overhaul a region's drainage or wastewater treatment systems, increasing our risk of exposure to bacteria, parasites and other unhealthy toxins.

Sources:
Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits — United States, May–September 2023. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2024;73:324–329.
New York Times: What the Newest Research on Wildfire Smoke Tells Us: <https://www.nytimes.com/article/wildfire-smoke-health-effect.html>
APHA: Climate Changes Health- Water Quality: <https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/climate-health-and-equity/water-quality>

Climate Emotions Wheel



Thank You!

More Resources

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