

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Climate and Health Resources: NEW MEXICO



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.

Most of New Mexico has warmed at least 1°F in the last century. This and other climate impacts, like decreased water flow in the Colorado, Rio Grande, and other rivers, mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for New Mexico 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.

- **Cases of valley fever, a fungal infection, have increased** in the Southwest. Climate change and drought may help spread this disease into new areas. [Learn how you can take action to prevent valley fever](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Learn about valley fever's symptoms and risks.
 - **Prepare:** Talk to your doctor about antifungal treatment if diagnosed.

- **The Southwest is likely to face more frequent and intense droughts.** Navajo communities in northwestern New Mexico 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 NEW MEXICO RESIDENTS		
Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn More: What Climate Change Means for New Mexico	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Southwest	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 6 (South Central)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: New Mexico Department of Health	State of New Mexico
	Find Resources: New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	State of New Mexico