



Are Warm Climates Dangerous? (Boca Raton, FL)

Never Have US Health Professionals Been So Foolish

By Steve Goreham

Originally published in [NewsBlaze](#).

Last month, 74 US medical and public health groups [released](#) a “U.S. Call to Action,” declaring climate change a “true public health emergency” that can be solved by “urgent action.” The statement calls for a transition away from hydrocarbon energy and a move to a low-carbon economy. But actual weather and health trends don’t support either the alarm or the demanded actions.

The statement was [endorsed](#) by the American Medical Association, the American Heart Association, and the American College of Physicians. These and other organizations [pronounced](#) climate change the “greatest public health challenge of the 21st century.”

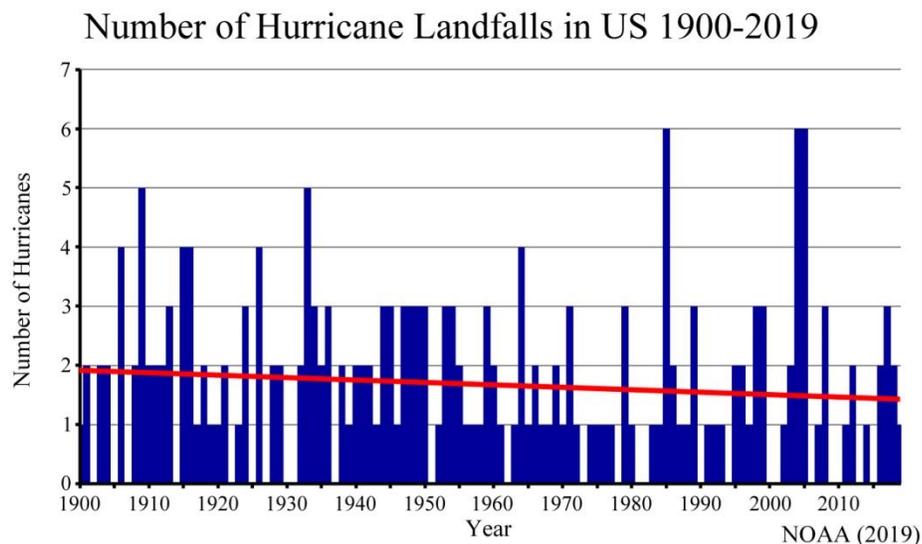
The statement proclaims that “extreme heat, powerful storms and floods, year-round wildfires, droughts, and other climate-related events” are caused by “fossil fuel combustion,” which is said to be the “primary driver of climate-change.” They go on to say that we can solve these problems by transitioning away from hydrocarbon fuels, coal, oil, and natural gas, and toward renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Last week, the majority of the continental US was caught in a heat wave. About 85 percent of the population [experienced](#) daily high temperatures of over 90 degrees Fahrenheit and more than half saw temperatures of over 95°F. But these temperatures were far below state record high temperatures of past decades.

History shows that the warmest US decade on record was the 1930s, long before industry emitted significant amounts of carbon dioxide. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 23 of the 50 state record high temperatures were [recorded](#) during the 1930s. Thirty-six of the 50 state record highs occurred prior to 1960.

“Powerful storms” are listed by the health statement as one of the results of human-caused global warming. Hurricane Barry dropped up to 15 inches of rain on parts of Louisiana earlier this month. The storm was said to be stronger from human emissions.

But there is no evidence that storms are getting either stronger or more frequent. Nine of the 13 strongest hurricanes to make US landfall in the historical record [came](#) ashore prior to 1965. Both the number of hurricanes and the number of strong hurricanes making US landfall has been flat to [declining](#) since 1900. NOAA data also shows that the number of strong tornados has been declining since the 1970s.



Last year’s forest fire disasters in California were blamed on human-caused global warming. Health professionals now appear to believe that wildfires are “year-round” and caused by emissions from our industry and vehicles.

But recent Congressional testimony by Dr. Judith Curry disputes this conclusion. Dr. Curry [provided](#) evidence that the US area burned by fires prior 1930 was at least as large as today. She also cited a study that [showed](#) that the percent of US sites reporting fires was much larger prior to 1900, before fire-suppression techniques were used.

In fact, rather than being a health crisis, much evidence shows that moderately warmer temperatures are good for people. The US influenza season is approximately November through March every year, during the cold months. The influenza season in the Southern Hemisphere is during the southern winter months. More people get sick during periods of cold temperature than during hot temperatures.

Many peer-reviewed studies show that more people die during winter months than summer months. The late Dr. William Keating [studied](#) temperature-related deaths for people aged 65 to 74 in six European countries. He found that deaths related to cold temperatures were nine times greater than those related to hot temperatures. Evidence shows that if Earth warms, temperature-related deaths will likely decrease overall.

The climate alarm from health professionals defies common sense. According to data from [NOAA](#), [NASA](#), and the Climate Research [Unit](#) in East Anglia University in the UK,

average global surface temperatures have warmed only one degree Celsius in 135 years, since 1880.

Average temperatures in [Norfolk](#), Virginia are 5.8°C warmer than in Chicago, Illinois. Average temperatures in Miami, Florida are more than 15°C warmer than Chicago. Is everyone dying from the heat in Norfolk and Miami?

And why do most US senior citizens retire to Florida, Texas, and Arizona, rather than North Dakota, Maine, and Alaska? Don't they know our medical professionals say that warm climates are dangerous?

The belief that changing light bulbs, driving electric cars, and erecting wind turbines can improve human health is as medieval as the belief that bloodletting can cure disease.

Steve [Goreham](#) is a speaker on the environment, business, and public policy and author of the [book](#) *Outside the Green Box: Rethinking Sustainable Development*.