

Extreme Weather Events

Weather in New Brunswick is always a great topic of conversation around the kitchen table. While strange weather and unseasonable trends happen every year, climate change is expected to change the frequency and intensity of abnormal weather. Of particular concern are extreme weather events that are hazardous to both humans and infrastructure. The impact of these events may become more problematic with a changing climate.

The **New Brunswick Climate Change Hub** operates as a clearinghouse for information on climate change. Through public education and outreach, the Hub can help groups and communities inform others about the effects of climate change and extreme weather events. The Hub can also provide individuals and communities with information on how to reduce their own vulnerability to climate hazards and extreme weather events.

Here are some examples of past extreme weather events and impacts:

- *Ice and Winter Storms* – 1998 ice storm and winter 2000 storm surges in NB caused prolonged power outages and millions of dollars in damages
- *Hurricanes* – high-force winds, floods and coastal storm surges damage infrastructure
- *Drought* – lack of rain can impact agriculture and affect municipal water supply
- *Heat Waves* – increased risk of heart attack or stroke, especially with the elderly
- *Flooding* – seasonal flooding in the Saint John River Valley has displaced populations, disrupted communities, and caused millions of dollars damages

Be prepared! Past experience shows that each extreme event is different and challenging in its own way. Therefore, communities should build their adaptive capacity to prepare for a broad range of weather extremes. Understanding the risks and being prepared is a cost effective way to reduce your vulnerability to extreme weather impacts. Visit the federal Emergency Preparedness website for more information at <http://www.ociepc-bpiepc.gc.ca/>.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.nbhub.org
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Dealing with Weather Impacts...

New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization Recent Disaster Damages*

- 1998 Ice Storm \$6,106,047
Southern NB - Charlotte to Kings County
- 1998 Flash Flood \$6,466,373
Southern NB - Charlotte to Albert County
- 1999 Sept. 7, Flash Flood \$1,787,960
Restigouche County - Val d'Amour and Balmoral
- 1999 Sept. 24, Flash Flood \$4,628,325
Southern NB - Kings to Kent County.
- 2000 Jan Storm Surge \$1,682,762
Coastal lands - Northumberland Strait to Bay of Chaleur
- 2000 Oct Storm Surge \$2,391,329
Coastal lands - Northumberland Strait to Bay of Chaleur

** These costs reflect claims paid by government.
They do not include insurance payments*