

CLIMATE FACT CHECK: SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

Summer 2026 NOT hottest evah! - 'Climate Change' NOT gobbling up apples or making wildfires more frequent & intense - Sea Levels NOT rising faster than ever - Flash flooding NOT due to 'climate change'

September 1st: Wrong, António Guterres, global sea levels are not rising faster than ever.

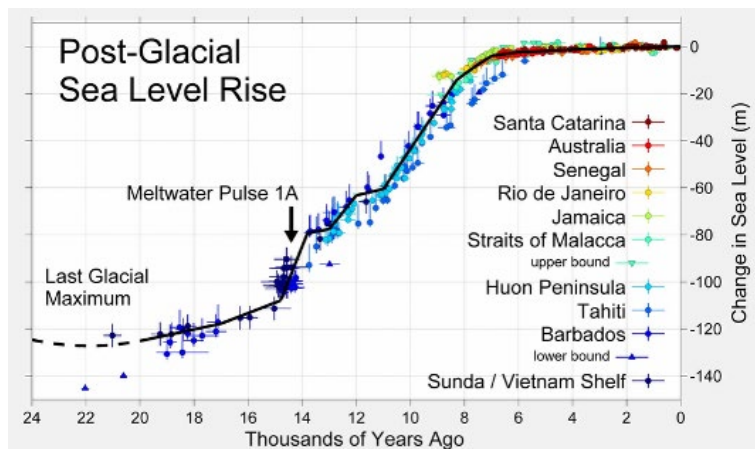
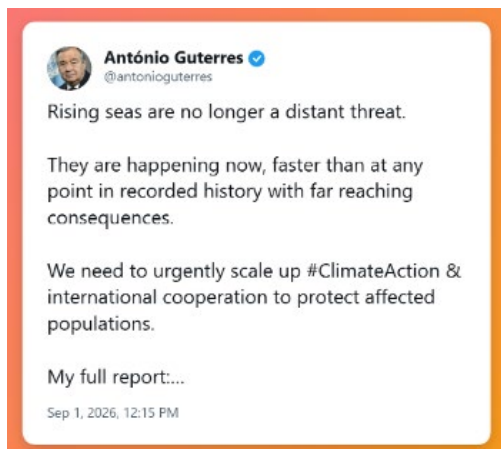


Claim: United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres [recently took to X](#) to state, "Rising seas are no longer a distant threat.

They are happening now faster than at any point in recorded history with far-reaching consequences." He then emphasized the need for "climate action" and cooperation between world governments to stave off catastrophe.

Fact-Check: This is demonstrably false.

Throughout much of the early Holocene, sea levels rose at faster rates than today. From ~11,000 to 8,000 years ago, sea level rise (SLR) rates were on the order of 8–12 mm/year. Several [peer-reviewed studies](#) show this to be [the case](#). Modern SLR rates are also similar to those of the [1920s–40s](#), as well. Atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels are clearly not the sea level control knob.



August 29th: Flash Flooding is NOT due to 'Climate Change'



Claim: [CNN reported](#) that the flash flooding on August 29, 2026, in the Grand Canyon, which killed two people and left another missing, was made worse by the “climate crisis.” Their framing is that “a warmer atmosphere can hold more water, which it wrings out in the form of more intense rainfall in some regions, potentially leading to devastating flooding.”

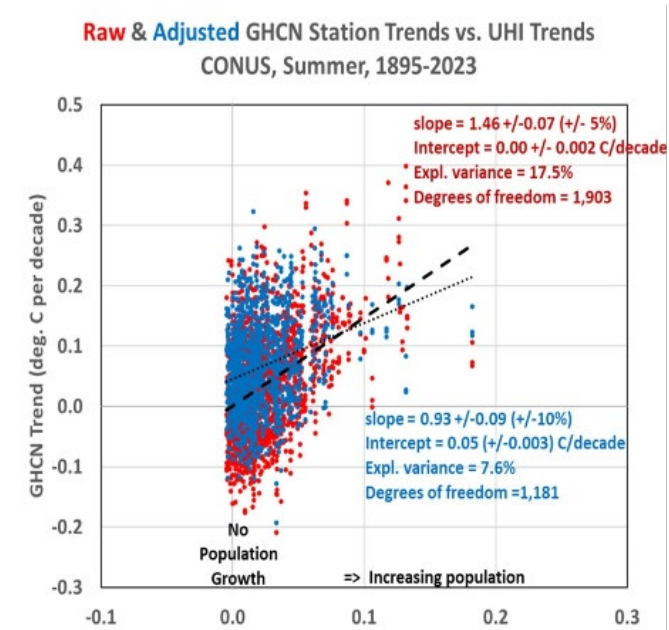
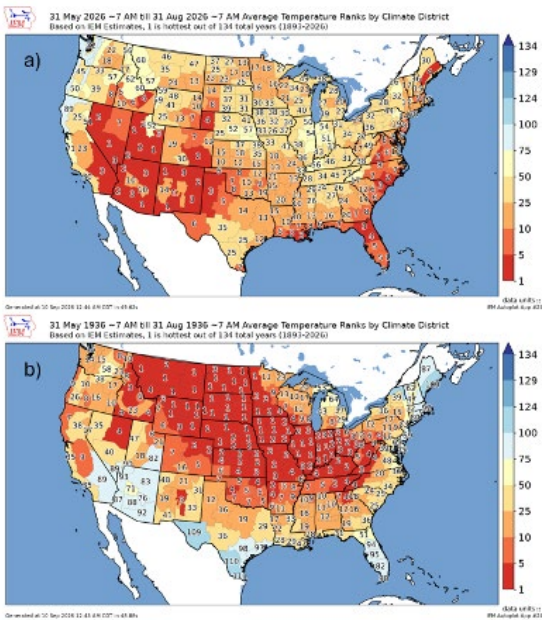
Fact-Check: This is nonsense. The Grand Canyon [exists because of flooding](#). The oldest rocks in the Grand Canyon are 1.8 billion years old, and according to the National Park Service (NPS), the Colorado River has been carving rock away for the past 5–6 million. When large volumes of water flow through a channel during floods, large rocks and boulders get carried downstream with the water, acting like chisels that carve out and widen the canyon walls. This process is known as “downcutting.” Flooding is not foreign to the Grand Canyon and is in fact an essential part of its geological history. Also, deaths from flooding in the Grand Canyon have been fairly common since the park’s opening. Upstream storms, often miles away, result in unanticipated downstream flooding for which hikers and campers have had no or only limited warning throughout history.

September 9th: Summer 2026 was not the hottest on record



Claim: Outlets including [CNN](#), [CBS News](#), and [USA Today](#) recently reported that the United States just had its “hottest summer on record,” beating the Dust Bowl. Andrew Freedman and CNN meteorologist Brandon Miller wrote that the benchmark summer of 1936 “has now been equaled or eclipsed twice in the past five years thanks to human-caused climate change.” Using [NOAA data](#), they reported June–August 2026 temperatures as averaging 74.4°F nationwide, which was 3.0°F above average and 0.4°F above 1936, noting record heat in the Four Corners region.

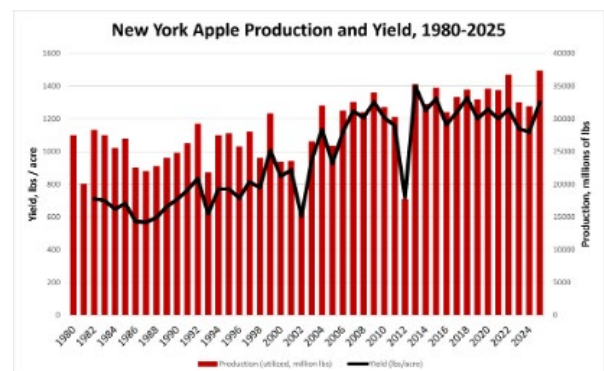
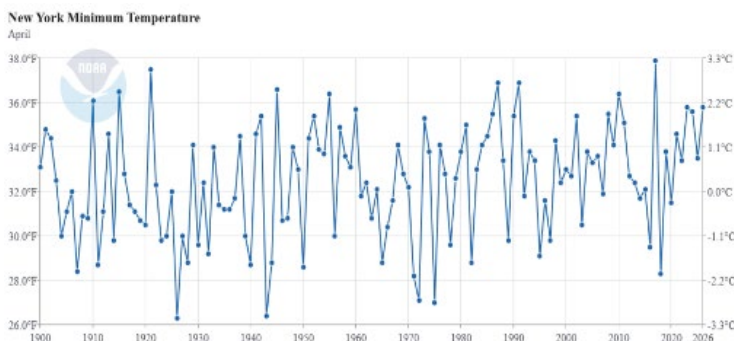
Fact-Check: This is misleading. June–August 2026 was indeed the warmest meteorological summer on record since 1895 based on NOAA’s *homogenized* temperature product, but it was not the *hottest*. NOAA’s own [press release](#) called summer 2026 the “warmest” in the 132-year record, but never mentioned “hottest,” which would be used to describe average maximum temperatures. The average temperature ranking is carried by elevated overnight lows, not highs. By daytime highs, 2026 ranked fourth highest behind 1936, 1934, and 2012. Only [seven](#) of 344 U.S. climate divisions observed their warmest summer on record (all in the Southwest), versus 51 divisions in 1936. The 0.4°F margin over 1936 is also smaller than the ~0.4–0.7°F of warming NOAA’s questionable [time-of-observation \(TOB\) adjustment](#) adds to the raw data, and [pairwise homogenization](#) adjustments are known to [blend urban warming](#) into neighboring rural stations.



September 21st: No, *NPR*, climate change is not challenging New York's apple growers

Claim: *NPR* affiliate [WAMC's Northeast Notebook](#) blamed low New York apple production on "increasingly unpredictable" spring weather caused by climate change. Reporter Sam Dingman said Hudson Valley growers hit a late April frost, rising diesel prices, and a federal crackdown on foreign labor, and that farmers now have to guard against "unexpected losses from increasingly unpredictable spring weather."

Fact-Check: A late frost is weather, not climate, and the production record does not support the claim that climate change is harming New York apple production. [USDA data](#) show New York apple production and yields are up ~35% since 1980, with 2025 being an all-time production record. Diesel prices and labor issues can hamper production, too, but they are not man-made climate change.



September 23rd: Wrong, Senator, 'climate change' is NOT making wildfires more frequent and intense



Claim: On the Senate floor on September 23, 2026, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) said, "climate change is making wildfires more frequent, more intense, and more destructive," and that "we should all be able to agree on that." He then posted a [short clip](#) of that speech on social media."

Fact-Check: This is false. The [satellite record](#) shows the exact opposite is happening. NASA MODIS and Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS) data show that global wildfire burn area has not increased since 2002. Total burned area has fallen by ~1.39% per year, and forest fire burn area specifically is flat to slightly down (about -0.46% per year). Where regional forest acreage has risen since the 1980s, such as in western North America, [peer-reviewed research](#) suggests that this mostly has to do with cumulative fuel buildup from decades of fire suppression and forest mismanagement, not climate change. Still, fire burn acreage has fallen by more than 80% since the 1930s, and pre-industrial fires such as the [1910 "Big Burn"](#) consumed on the order of three million acres.

September 25th: Wrong, *TIME*, nor'easters aren't proof of climate change



Claim: Amidst the recent nor'easter that caused significant coastal flooding along the Jersey Shore, *TIME* asked, "[How Does Climate Change Impact Nor'easters?](#)" The article argues that September nor'easters are rare, and that "as the climate warms, research suggests that the strongest storms are also going to become more intense."

Fact-Check: One nor'easter is weather, not climate. *TIME Magazine* provided no evidence whatsoever to support their claim that nor'easters are becoming more frequent or powerful. More revealing is an admission buried halfway through the article, when they write, "Scientists are still not 100 percent clear about how nor'easters are changing due to climate change." The [IPCC reports](#) "low confidence in past changes of maximum wind speeds and other measures of dynamical intensity of extratropical cyclones."

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- [Wrong, USA Today, “Hottest Summer Ever” Claim Ignores the Most Important Temperature Record](#)
- [Wrong, Euronews: Climate Change Has Not Created a Food, Energy, and Economic ‘Meta-Crisis’](#)
- [Impossible, Asia Nikkei, Climate Change Can’t Be Harming Indonesian Coffee Production, It Is Setting Records](#)

[ClimateDepot.com](#)

- [Wash Post: Global warming now causes FEWER hurricanes – ‘Increasing atmospheric STABILITY in the tropical Atlantic may be connected to a changing climate’](#)
- [Psychology Today: ‘How a warming world may be increasing the risk of child maltreatment’ – ‘Climate-related stressors’ linked to ‘the risk of child abuse’](#)
- [Tire Banning has arrived: Unelected California bureaucrats issue ban on non ‘efficient’ tires – Climate nannies claim ‘equivalent of taking 400,000 cars off the road each year’](#)

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- [2025 Nature Paper Claiming Worsening Global Drought Gets RETRACTED ...Heavily Flawed](#)
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