

From the YALE CLIMATE CONNECTIONS...

CLIMATE EXPLAINED

Multiple extreme climate events can combine to produce catastrophic damages

Concurrent extreme climate events can amount to a challenging 'two-fer' or even a 'three-fer' in terms of adverse impacts.

By Gary Yohe, Henry Jacoby, and Richard Richels | Friday, October 9, 2020

“Wildfires in California, Oregon, and Washington are this year’s poster children for extreme natural disasters. Hardly a day passed in August and September without disturbing pictures of heart-wrenching damages and loss of life. Even worse, this summer’s hurricanes became major flooding events as the storms themselves stalled over populated areas along the Gulf coast.

“That does not mean, of course, that all see climate change as playing a significant role in determining the strength, frequency, or behavior of either of these climate risks.

“What it *does* mean is that the scientific community must explain more clearly why the recent spate of extraordinary natural disasters can be understood only with reference both to impacts of climate change as we have come to know them, and now something more complex: concurrent impacts amplifying themselves in real time

“Figure 2 of our September 18th essay in this series showed how global warming can push aspects of the environment toward greater extremes and higher damages. More specifically, it teaches us how trends that increase damages can, over time, make high-damage futures more likely while reducing the chances of more benign possibilities.”

READ MORE AT: <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2020/10/multiple-extreme-climate-events-can-combine-to-produce-catastrophic-damages/>