2012 was hottest year on record in U.S.

The U.S. sweltered under its hottest ever year, with an average temperature of 13C (55.3F) – breaking the 1998 record by 0.6C (1F). Scientists say the heat was due to both global warming and natural weather variation

HEAT: 99m people – one-third of population – experience 10 or more days of summer temperatures greater than 38°C

Average temperature
2012: **13°C**
1998: **12.4°C**
20th century: **11.3°C**

- **Record warmest**
- **Above normal**

HURRICANES: *Sandy* causes around $50bn damage in Northeast, with 8m homes losing power and 131 deaths. *Isaac* swamps much of Gulf Coast

TORNADOES: Early outbreak in March in Ohio Valley and Central Plains kills 42 people

UNITED STATES

WY · SD · UT · CO · NE · KS · OK · NM · TX · MO · IL · OH · WV
VT · NH · MA · NY · CT · DE

WILDFIRES: Colorado endures costliest ever fire season, New Mexico suffers worst ever fires in May-June

DROUGHT: Worst since 1930s. Over 50% of country affected, particularly Great Plains agricultural states

WINDS: "Derecho" straight-line storm with gusts up to 145km/h ravages 11 states in June. 28 killed

2012: Eleven disasters cause over $1bn in damage apiece

Sources: NOAA
Pictures: Getty Images
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