

An unlucky year: Weather disasters spike in 2011

By KATIE NIELAND | Tribune graphics

Unprecedented tornadoes, fires, storms, hurricanes and floods contributed to a record 14 weather and climate disasters in the United States in 2011 that caused \$1 billion or more in damages. That reflects a spike in natural disasters and also the geography of where they occurred, whether in populated areas or costly farmland. "There were just

an inordinate number of extremely hazardous and deadly, destructive weather events," said Greg Carbin, a warning coordination meteorologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Will 2012 be another record-breaker? Carbin says that's hard to predict. "Let's hope that's an anomaly."

Disasters with at least \$1 billion in damage

