



Community Reactions to Extreme Weather

Friday, April 16th
11:00AM-12:00PM

Zoom: [Join Here](#)

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Abstract: Extreme weather events may provide opportunities to raise public awareness and spur action to address climate change. Using concepts from the study of social movements, the literature on climate change communication and policy studies of focusing events, we conducted surveys and case studies in communities that experienced extreme weather events in the United States to identify under what conditions, and through what mechanisms, the experience of an extreme weather event generates community discussion and collective action linked to climate change. Our findings suggest that extreme events can act as focusing events for awareness and action but not always and not for everyone. Discussion of the role of climate change and policy change post-event were often limited, as the rescue and recovery process can be overwhelming. Most policy actions post-event were focused on adaptation to future extreme events, as opposed to mitigation. Discussions about climate change post-event appeared particularly relevant around events that scientists more readily attributed to climate change, where contextual factors facilitated discussion, and where resources can facilitate action.



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