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„Special Weather“ as a „Norm of Today“

The most commonly used definition of **extreme weather** is based on an ebeny's climatological distribution. Extreme weather occurs only 5 % or less of the time. Extreme events, by definition, are rare. There is indicative list of some of them:¹

- Year 2005: In July, devastating flooding in India killed at least 1,000 people and caused approximately USD 3.5 billion in damage. In January, storm winds swept across northern Europe and killed at least 13 people and left millions without electricity. **In August, Hurricane Katrina caused catastrophic damage along the Gulf Coast of the United States.** In September, Hurricane Rita left 119 people dead along the Gulf Coast and caused USD 9.4 billion in damage. In October, Hurricane Wilma killed 62 people in Jamaica, Haiti, Mexico, Cuba, and the USA and caused USD 25 billion in damage, making it one of the costliest hurricanes on record.
- Year 2006: In February, a massive mudslide buried the town of Guinsaigon in the Philippines (at least 1 119 people were reported dead or missing). In May, heavy flooding in northern Thailand has left over 130 people dead or missing. In June, heavy rainfall in the Mid-Atlantic region of the USA caused widespread flooding that led to at least 16 fatalities. In July, heavy rains caused widespread flooding that has killed at least 549 (probably even 58,000) people in North Korea, forcing country to appeal for help from South Korea. Flooding also killed 25 people in South Korea and 22 in Japan. From July-August, a major heat wave in the United States contributed to the deaths of at least 225 people, including 163 in California. In January, the coldest weather in decades, accompanied by heavy snowfall and high winds in areas, occurred throughout Russian Federation, Eastern and Northern Europe, leaving hundreds of people dead.
- Year 2007: After an intense dry period over some Australian regions, extremely heavy rain fell in June. This caused major flooding and cut off some towns for several days. Very similar scenario occurred in Ulster on 12 June. Some locations received more than the monthly amount in just 30 minutes. The Southeast United States experienced record drought and temperatures during September.
- Year 2008 Typhoons in Pacific Area and Far East regions (that cost many lives and billions of USD in damages). Tornadoes affected southern part of the United States with more than 130 deaths.
- Year 2009: This year was characterised by the heat waves and torrential rains in northern hemisphere, wildfires in southern hemisphere (Australia, Argentina).
- Year 2010: „Very special“ Winter weather across all the planet.

¹ Strictly speaking, if the „extreme“ weather becomes a norm, over time „the extreme“ will be considered everything that is the norm today.