

Q1 Global Catastrophe Recap

April 2025



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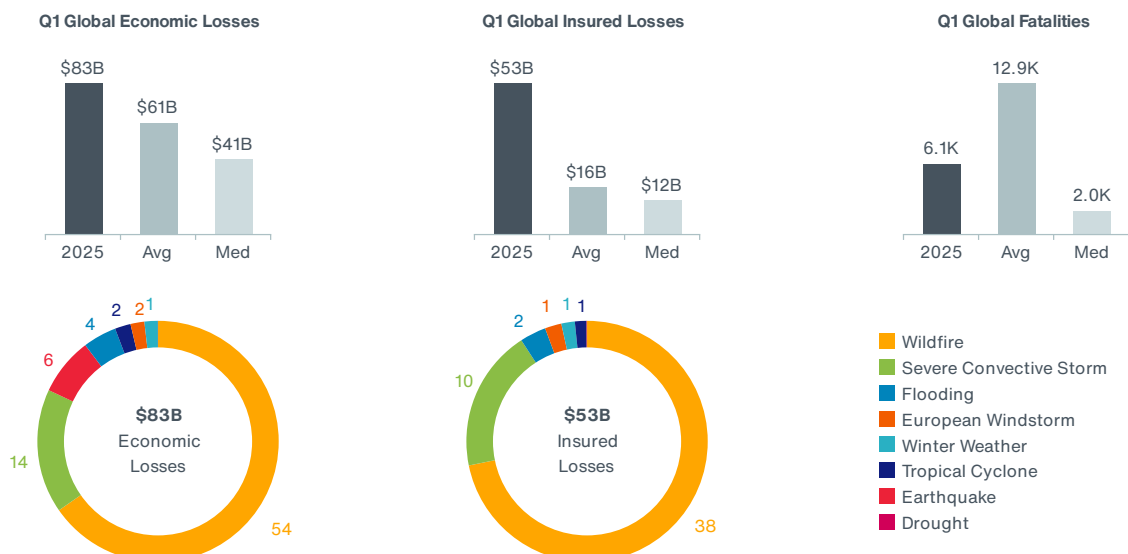
Executive Summary

The **economic losses of the first quarter of 2025 (Q1) reached at least \$83 billion**, which is well above the 21st-century Q1 average of \$61 billion, and also higher than the losses during the same period last year (\$54 billion). The first-quarter losses were driven by California wildfires (Palisades & Eaton Fires), as well as by several other billion-dollar events, including multiple severe convective storm (SCS) outbreaks across the United States in February and March, and the deadly earthquakes in Myanmar and China.

Insured losses were expected to reach at least \$53 billion, which is significantly higher than the 21st-century Q1 average of \$17 billion, marking the second-highest total on record after Q1 2011. These high losses resulted primarily from California wildfires, which contributed approximately \$37.5 billion, or 71 percent of the total insured losses.

The insurance **protection gap was provisionally estimated at 36 percent**, the lowest Q1 value since 1990 (47 percent) and by far the lowest level on record for Q1. This was mainly due to the dominant contribution of insured losses in the United States, where insurance penetration stands relatively high.

More than **6,000 people died** due to natural disasters during the first quarter of 2025, which is well above a number of fatalities during the same period last year (1,800). The total Q1 death toll is expected to evolve further since the vast majority (88 percent) of the deaths is related to the recent earthquake in Myanmar. All other events during Q1 resulted in about 700 fatalities in total, which would rank among one of the lowest human Q1 losses on record.



Q1 Economic Losses Driven by U.S. Events

Global economic losses due to natural disasters in Q1 of 2025 were preliminarily estimated at **\$83 billion**, approximately 36 percent higher than the long-term mean since 2000 (\$61 billion), and well above the 21st-century median (\$41 billion). It is worth noting that these figures are subject to change as individual event loss estimates tend to evolve even months after the date of occurrence.

EXHIBIT 1: Q1 Global Economic Losses

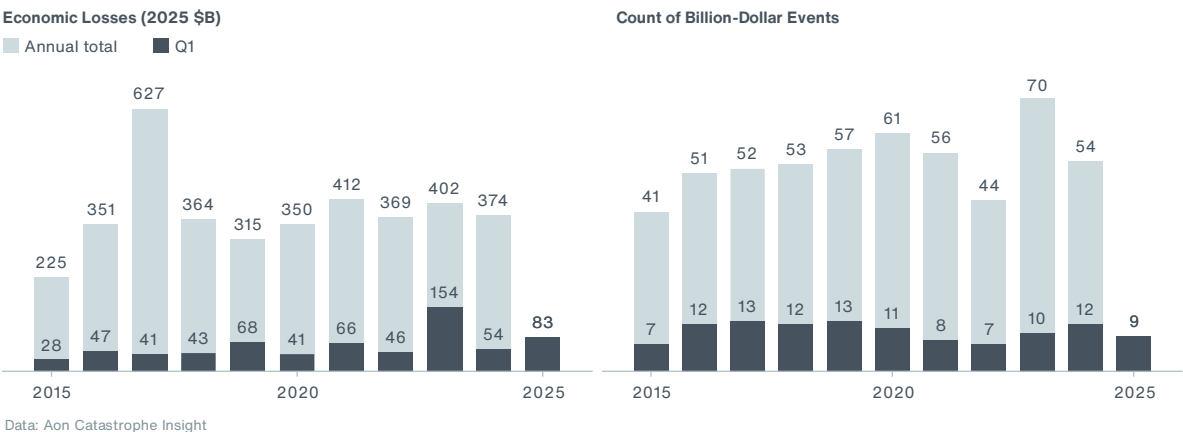
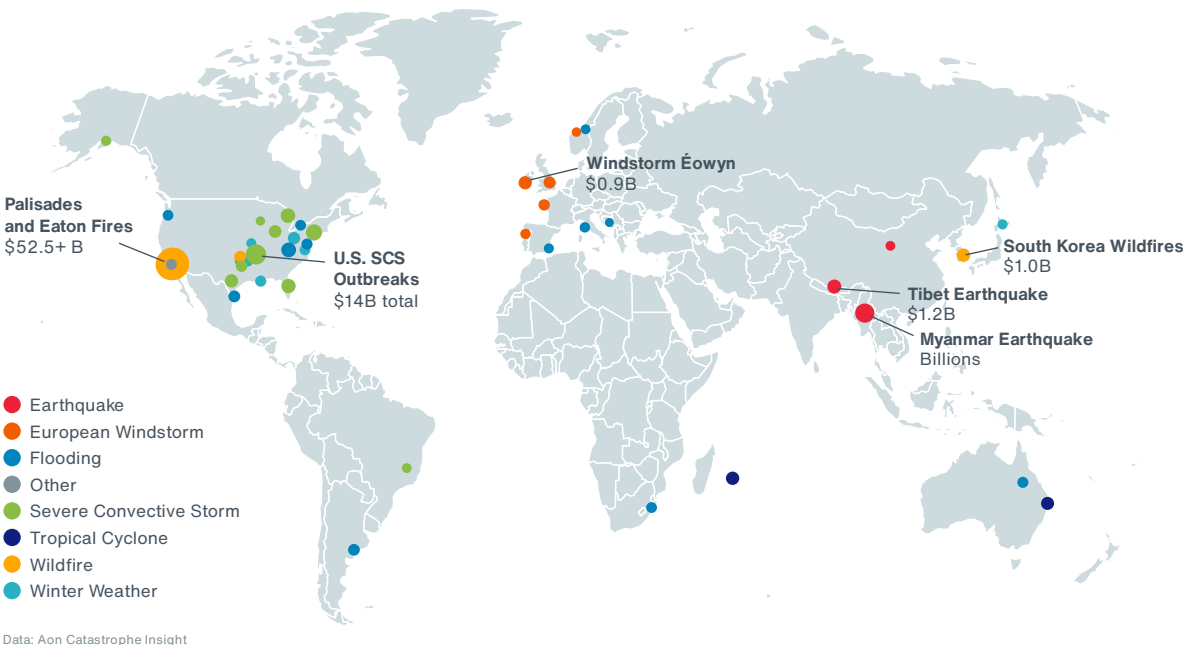


EXHIBIT 2: Q1 2025 Economic Loss Events



Palisades and Eaton Fires were by far the costliest events of the first quarter of 2025. California wildfires damaged or destroyed more than 18,000 structures and became one of the costliest wildfires on record globally. At least seven other events resulted in economic losses above the billion-dollar mark. This includes multiple SCS outbreaks in the United States in February and March, the Tibetan Plateau earthquake in January, and a deadly earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand, where the impacts are still being assessed.

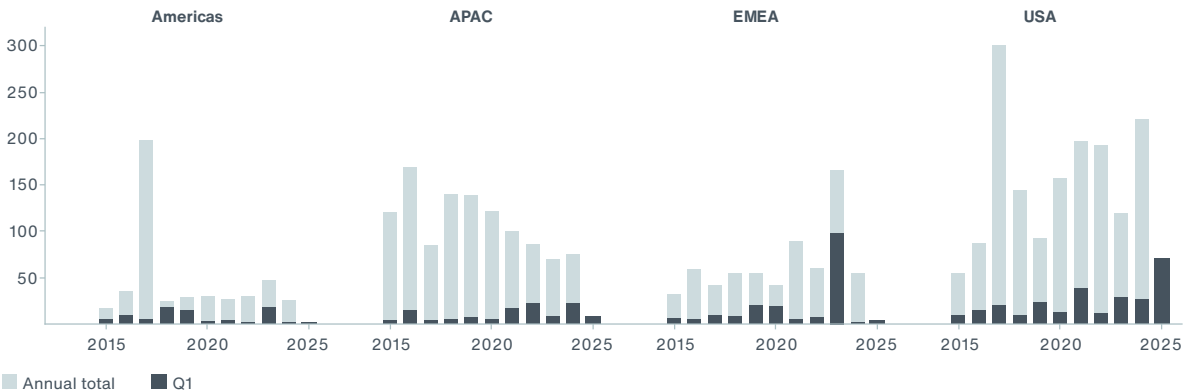
EXHIBIT 3: Top 5 Costliest Economic Loss Events in Q1 2025

Date(s)	Event	Location	Fatalities	Economic Loss (\$B)
01/07-01/28	Palisades Fire	United States	12	27.5
01/07-01/28	Eaton Fire	United States	18	25.0
03/14-03/16	Severe Convective Storm	United States	30	6.3
03/28	Myanmar Earthquake	Southeast Asia	5,367+	5.0*
03/03-03/06	Severe Convective Storm	United States	6	2.5

* Preliminary, likely higher

According to preliminary estimates, Q1 economic losses in the United States alone reached almost \$71 billion, the highest figure since 1994 (Northridge Earthquake) and significantly above the Q1 average since 2000 (\$12 billion). In contrast, Q1 economic losses in all other regions were below their long-term Q1 averages.

EXHIBIT 4: Q1 Economic Losses by Region (2025 \$B)



Data: Aon Catastrophe Insight

Q1 Insured Losses Second Highest on Record

Global insured losses from natural disaster events in Q1 2025 were preliminarily estimated to reach at least **\$53 billion**, the highest Q1 insured losses since Q1 2011 (\$81 billion), and marking the second-highest figure on record. The 21st-century average (\$17 billion) and median (\$12 billion) of the same period were substantially exceeded. At least six events, all of which occurred in the United States, surpassed \$1 billion in insured losses. With an additional disaster activity expected in the rest of the year, 2025 may become another costly year for insurers.

EXHIBIT 5: Q1 Global Insured Losses

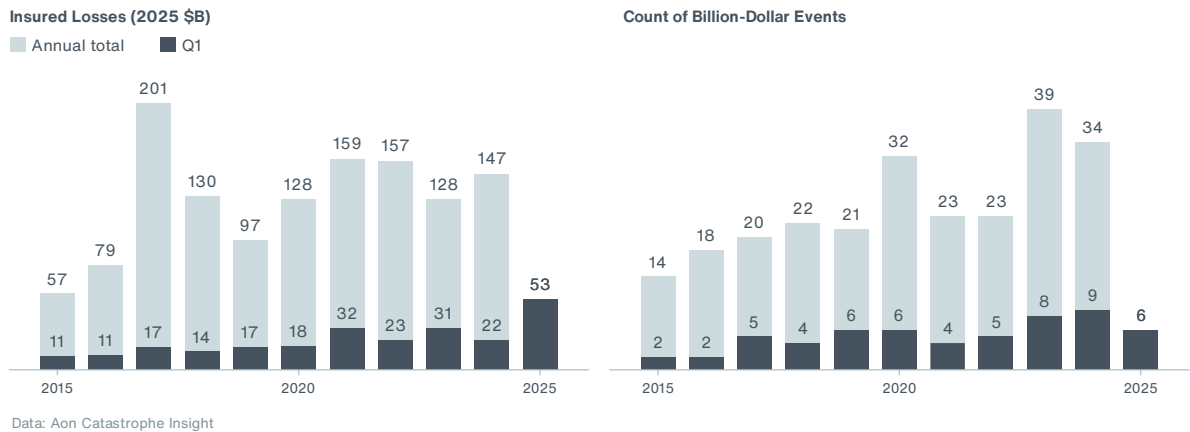
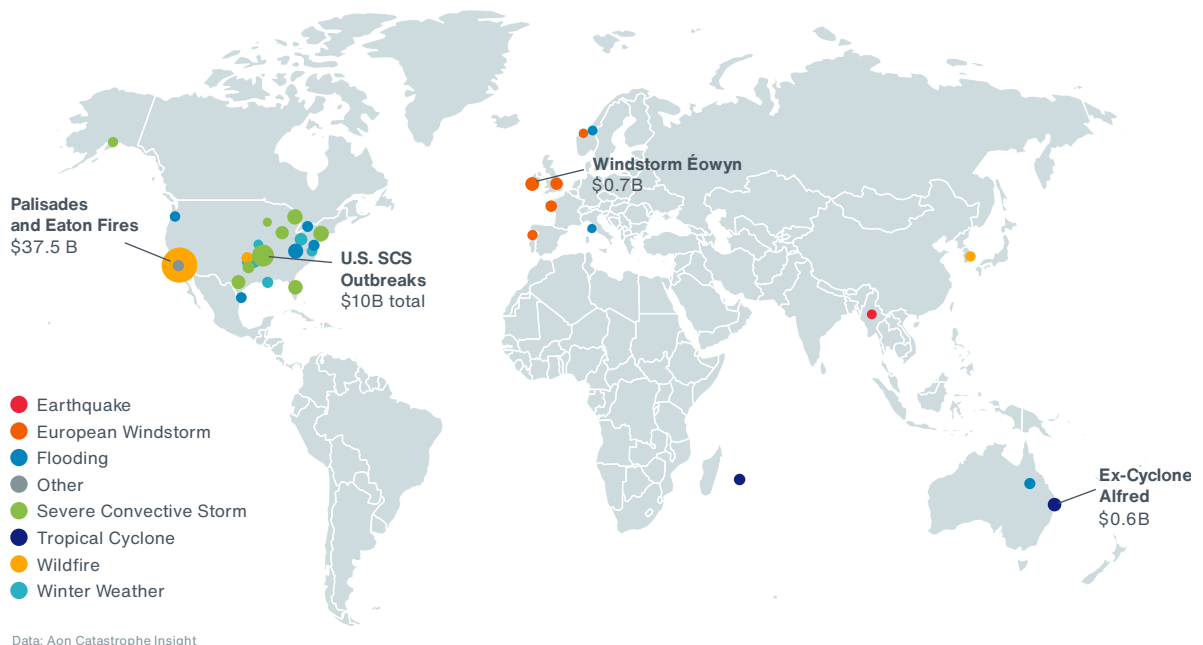


EXHIBIT 6: Q1 2025 Insured Loss Events



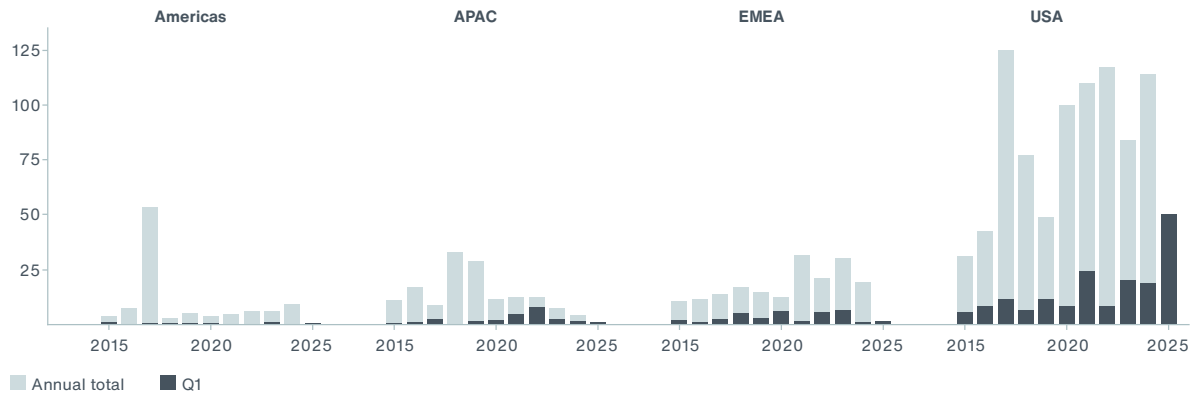
High Q1 insured losses were driven by destructive **California wildfires** in January, as thousands of valuable properties were burned by the Palisades and Eaton Fires, with total insured losses to be estimated at \$37.5 billion. Another more than \$10 billion in insured losses were generated by multiple SCS outbreaks across the United States. Outside the U.S. region, Windstorm Éowyn was the costliest event in Q1 2025, resulting in insured losses of approximately \$690 million (€620 million), followed by Cyclone Alfred, which impacted Australia's Queensland in early March.

EXHIBIT 7: Top 5 Costliest Insured Loss Events in Q1 2025

Date(s)	Event	Location	Fatalities	Insured Loss (\$B)
01/07-01/28	Palisades Fire	United States	12	20.0
01/07-01/28	Eaton Fire	United States	18	17.5
03/14-03/16	Severe Convective Storm	United States	30	5.0
03/03-03/06	Severe Convective Storm	United States	6	1.3
03/28-03/31	Storms & Winter Weather	United States, Canada	9	1.2

Natural catastrophes in the United States accounted for roughly 95 percent of global insured losses in the first quarter of 2025, reaching approximately \$50 billion. This was more than six times higher than the long-term average since 2000. Meanwhile, Q1 insured losses in all other regions were significantly lower compared to their long-term averages.

EXHIBIT 8: Q1 Insured Losses by Region (2025 \$B)



Data: Aon Catastrophe Insight

Costliest Wildfires on Record Dominate Q1 Losses

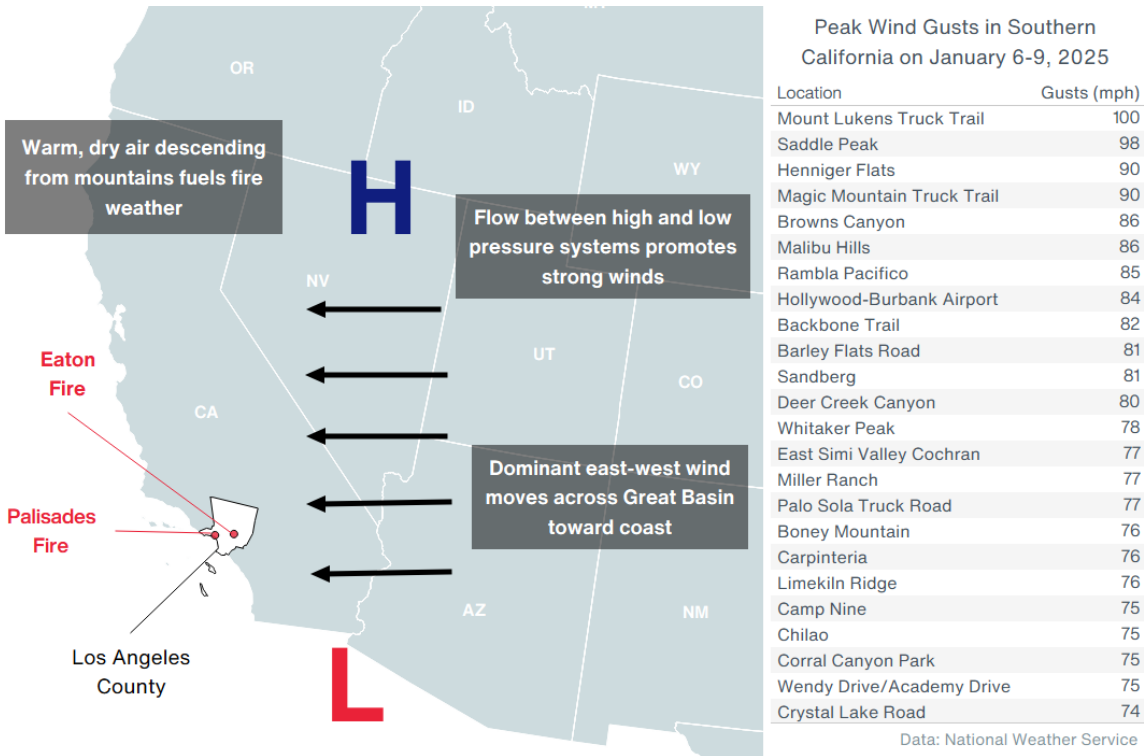
Overview

During just the second week of 2025, two large fires in southern California ignited and would go on to cause unprecedented and catastrophic damage across parts of Los Angeles County. Driven by ideal wildfire conditions, including a powerful windstorm and preceding drought, the Palisades and Eaton fires rapidly expanded soon after ignition, spreading into the Pacific Palisades and Altadena communities, respectively. Both fires are widely considered to be the costliest wildfires in United States history.

Key Drivers of Wildfire Spread

The Palisades and Eaton sparked on January 7 and were active for almost a month, destroying thousands of buildings in Los Angeles County, California. There were many factors behind the severity of these fires, including long-term drought, high temperatures, fire-exacerbating vegetation, and terrain. In addition to these drivers, the most impactful factor for fire spread were Santa Ana Winds. These extremely dry and strong katabatic winds originate from the Intermountain West, such the Great Basin which covers much of Nevada. Here, winds flow out from a high-pressure airmass and flow over the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, sweeping away a great deal of atmospheric moisture in the process. Unfortunately, fire suppression efforts were also partially hindered due to these winds oscillating in strength for over two weeks following January 7.

EXHIBIT 9: Diagram of Santa Ana Wind Setup and Peak Wind Gusts in Southern California



According to real-time data on wind speed and area burned, there was a clear relationship between these two factors. In just the first 24 hours of the Palisades Fire, over 11,000 acres (4,400 ha) of land was quickly burned under maximum wind gusts exceeding 55 mph (90 kph). Simultaneously, the Eaton Fire resulted in a similar, rapid burn extent due to even stronger wind gusts. In the following 72 hours, wind speeds severely diminished as the aforementioned Santa Ana setup began to break down. During this period, the Palisades Fire would roughly double in size to 23,000 acres (9,300 ha) while the Eaton Fire grew much slower to 14,000 acres (5,700 ha). Although both fires were contained in less than a month, each saw at least 50 percent of the burned acreage occurring within the first 24 hours from ignition.

EXHIBIT 10: Palisades Fire Area Burned and Measured Wind Speed (3-Hour Running Mean)

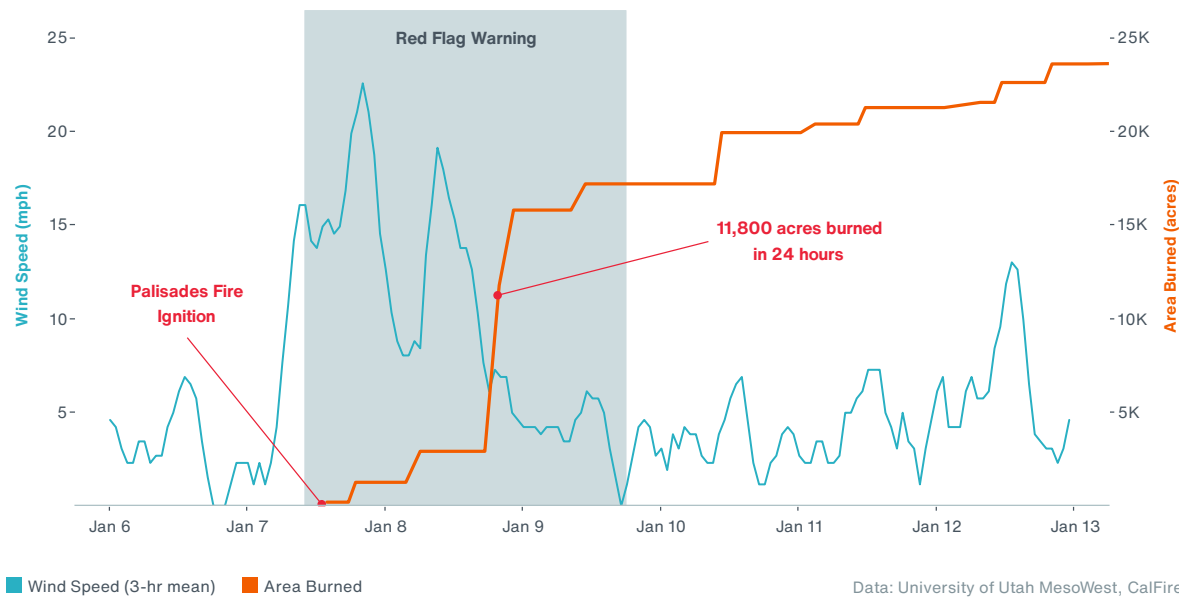


EXHIBIT 11: Palisades and Eaton Fires Summary, According to CalFire (as of April 10)

	Palisades Fire	Eaton Fire
Ignition Date	January 7	January 7
Active Days	24	24
Area Burned (acres/hectares)	23,707 / 9,594	14,021 / 5,674
Fatalities	12	18
Injuries	4	9
Damaged Structures	973	1,074
Destroyed Structures	6,837	9,414
Preliminary Economic Loss (\$B)	27.5	25.0
Preliminary Insured Loss (\$B)	20.0	17.5

Fallout for California FAIR Plan

In February 2025, the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements ([FAIR](#)) Plan Association was approved for a \$1 billion assessment to its member companies following the L.A. County Wildfires. This enabled the FAIR plan, a state-mandated fire insurance program made available to high-risk California homeowners, to continue paying claims to those affected by the recent fires. As of February 9, the FAIR Plan has received 3,469 claims related to the Palisades Fire and 1,325 claims related to the Eaton Fire, according to the California Department of Insurance (DOI). Between both events, damage to residential structures makes up 97 percent of all claims, while the remaining 3 percent account for commercial claims.

Additionally, the FAIR Plan Association estimates \$4 billion in total incurred losses from the Palisades and Eaton fires, of which only \$914 million has been paid out, as of February 2025. Of the remaining \$3.125 billion losses, approximately 75 percent is anticipated to be paid out over the next several months.

EXHIBIT 12: Southern California Damage Survey Images Provided by Aon's Impact Forecasting



Weather Forecasts and Key Events of Q1 2025

Overview

Weather forecasting plays a crucial role in mitigating losses from natural disasters by providing timely and accurate information that can help in preparation and response efforts. This results in enhanced early warning systems, effective pre-event planning, resource allocation, and improved risk assessment, all to lessen economic impacts and ensure public safety. Current and future weather forecasting may profit from new AI-based weather forecast models that have been developed in recent years. These are designed to complement traditional numerical weather prediction models.

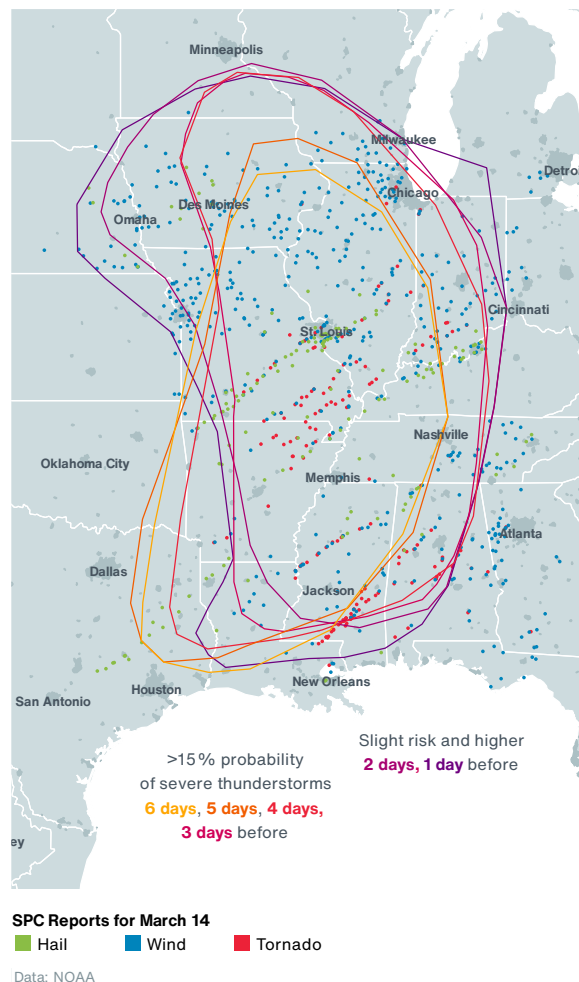
In the first quarter of 2025, various global events highlighted the need for accurate weather predictions. Despite the aforementioned advancements in technology and data collection, impacts from some Q1 events were still unpredictable. However, other events were accurately forecasted well in advance.

Well Forecasted U.S. SCS Outbreak on March 14-16

SCS-related losses in the United States thus far in 2025 rank among the top five on record for Q1, with \$14 billion and \$10 billion in economic and insured losses, respectively. More than half of all SCS losses this year came from a single event, the massive severe weather outbreak on March 14-16. At \$6 billion in economic losses and \$5.3 billion in insured losses, this devastating three-day event already ranks among the top 10 costliest SCS events in U.S. history.

This event was also noteworthy for how well in advance the National Weather Service (NWS) and Storm Prediction Center (SPC) forecasted the impacts. The risk of a large severe weather outbreak, especially on March 14-15, was identified as early as 6 days before the actual event. Convective outlooks released by the SPC in the days leading up to March 14-15 were remarkably accurate, as seen in Exhibit 13. Additionally, the SPC issued a rare “high” risk for severe weather for March 15 one day prior, marking only the third time in the agency's history that its highest warning was issued a day in advance.

EXHIBIT 13: Storm Prediction Center Daily Convective Outlooks for March 14

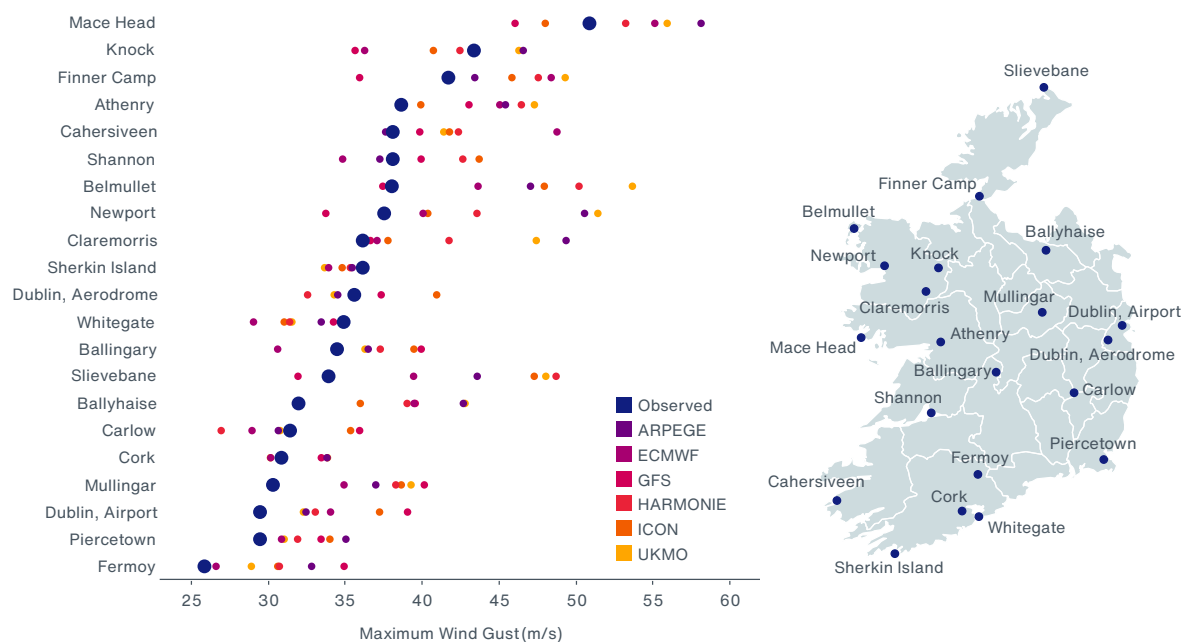


Overestimated Intensity of Windstorm Éowyn on January 23-25

In January, Windstorm Éowyn (alternatively named Gilles) impacted Ireland and the United Kingdom. With the central pressure expected to drop below 940 mb, Éowyn was forecast to become one of the deepest storms on record in the United Kingdom, with the potential for substantial impacts and disruption. Rare red wind warnings were issued across Ireland and the UK's Northern Ireland and Scotland due to powerful winds.

Similarly to the mid-March U.S. event, the impact of Windstorm Éowyn's extreme winds was consistently predicted days in advance by virtually all major forecasting models. However, the eventual intensity of the storm was lower than initially anticipated.

EXHIBIT 14: Observed versus Forecast Maximum Wind Gusts at Selected Stations in the Republic of Ireland (Model Runs Issued at 0:00, January 23, about 24h before Éowyn's Impact)



Despite the overestimation, Éowyn still became the costliest windstorm on record in Ireland, with insurance payouts reaching €300 million (\$335 million). In total, the storm generated over €800 million (\$890 million) in economic losses and about €620 million (\$690 million) in insured losses. This storm became the only event during the past windstorm season that resulted in industry losses above \$500 million. Overall, the total seasonal losses stood notably lower compared to the 21st-century average.

Issuing a rather conservative warning can sometimes be considered preferable when it comes to uncertainty around potential high-impact events. Reliable weather predictions and warnings are essential for minimizing losses and human casualties from natural disasters. Meteorological offices tend to issue warnings to prepare the public and authorities, ensure appropriate safety measures are taken, and mitigate potential damage. These warnings help in reducing casualties, protecting property, and facilitating efficient emergency response and resource allocation.

Active Cyclonic Season in the Southern Hemisphere

Overview

The Southern Hemisphere, especially the Indian Ocean basin, has seen an above-average number of cyclonic storms. The first named storm, Ancha, developed in early October, nearly a month before the season's official start on November 1. By the end of March, there were 27 named storms, several causing significant regional impacts and financial losses.

EXHIBIT 15: Southern Hemisphere Tropical Cyclone Activity

	Named Storms	Cat 1-2 Cyclones	Cat 3+ Cyclones	Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE)
Current season (Oct 1, 2024 - Apr 10, 2025)	27	15	10	243.5
1991-2020 climatology (through Apr 10)	23.2	12.6	7	190.3

Source: JTWC, CSU

On February 28, **Cyclone Garance** made direct landfall in the French Indian Ocean territory of Réunion, generating powerful wind gusts and heavy rainfall that resulted in property damage to hundreds of homes. The storm became one of the costliest to ever hit the island. French public-sector reinsurer (CRR) put estimated insured losses between €160-€200 million (\$173-\$216 million), with the total economic losses standing much higher. Several other impactful tropical cyclones, namely Dikeledi, Honde or Jude, resulted in notable human and material losses across several states in Southeast Africa.

Insurers in Australia have received nearly 95,000 claims related to **Ex-Cyclone Alfred**, an exceptionally rare event that impacted Queensland and northeast New South Wales in early March, especially the densely populated area of Brisbane. It was the first tropical cyclone to approach the east coast near Brisbane since 1974. The rarity of Alfred's path and resulting impacts highlighted the need for preparedness in regions not traditionally prone to such extreme events. Although severe impacts from tropical cyclones are typically uncommon in this area, recent studies revealed that projected tropical cyclone activity in the Southwest Pacific basin exposes larger land areas to extreme winds and high precipitation totals. This includes the southernmost portions of the basin, where future tropical cyclone wind speeds may exceed current wind standards ([Bruyère et al., 2022](#)).

Cyclone Alfred brought heavy rainfall, contributing to above-average rainfall totals. Much of Queensland has seen substantially more rain than usual since the start of the year, which has led to widespread and continual flooding. Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) reported the aggregated insured losses of approximately AUD1.2 billion (\$750 million). Majority of the insured loss will fall into the recently established Australia's Cyclone Reinsurance Pool (CRP) and it will not be a market-changing event.

EXHIBIT 16: Claims and Losses Reported by ICA as of April 2

Event	Home	Motor	Commercial	All claims	Insured Loss (AUD/USD)
North QLD Floods	6,092	1,118	2,123	10,127	233 million / 145 million
Cyclone Alfred	81,952	3,131	5,766	94,867	1 billion / 630 million

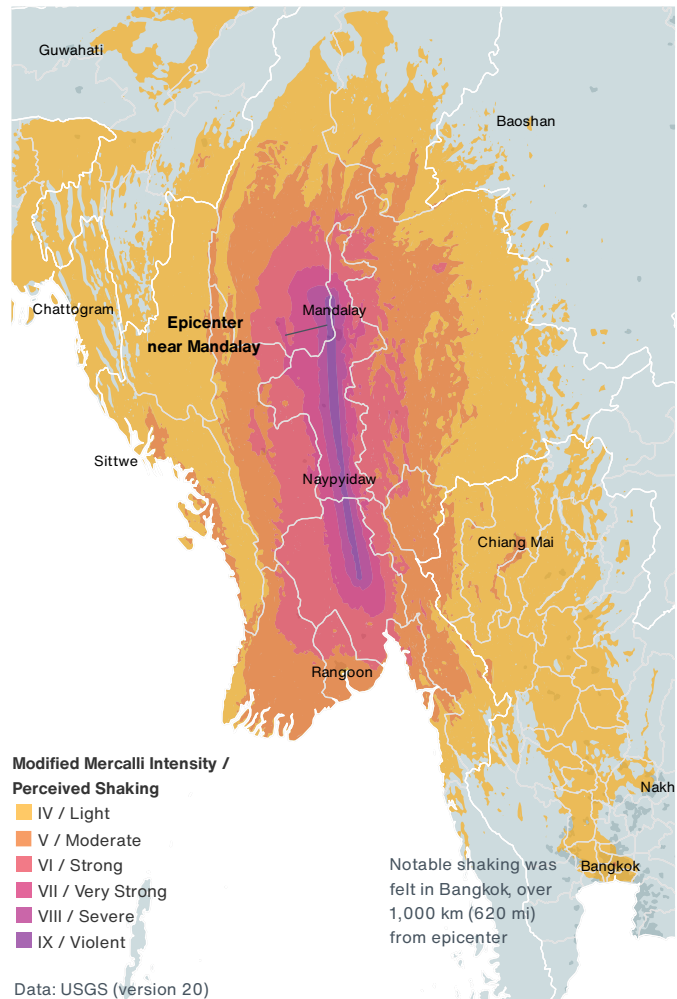
Myanmar Earthquake and Wildfires in Asia Pacific

Impacts of the Myanmar Earthquake Extended Well Beyond the Epicenter Region

On March 28, 2025, a magnitude-7.7 earthquake struck near Mandalay, Myanmar, causing significant humanitarian and economic impacts, exacerbated by the ongoing civil war. The earthquake resulted in at least 5,300 fatalities, making it one of Myanmar's deadliest natural disasters. Over 5,000 people were injured, and extensive structural damage was reported, including in neighboring Thailand where a high-rise collapse in Bangkok caused 29 deaths and 33 injuries.

The Sagaing Fault, a major seismic zone in Myanmar, was responsible for the quake. Economic losses are expected to be substantial, while insured losses will be lower due to low insurance penetration. The ongoing civil war in Myanmar is significantly hindering relief efforts, complicating the delivery of aid and the coordination of rescue operations and exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in the country.

EXHIBIT 17: Intensity and Perceived Shaking Generated by Myanmar's Earthquake



Rare Wildfire Activity in South Korea and Japan

In the first quarter of 2025, the Asia-Pacific region experienced significant wildfire activity, particularly in South Korea and Japan. South Korea faced devastating wildfires that resulted in 31 fatalities, 49 injuries, and the destruction of over 7,700 structures. The economic impact was substantial, with losses estimated at approximately KRW1.4 trillion (\$1 billion). Insurers received nearly 5,000 claims, predominantly through crop insurance. Meanwhile, Japan witnessed the Ōfunato wildfire, the largest in over 50 years, which destroyed 171 structures and caused one fatality.

Appendix: Q1 2025 Data

United States

Date(s)	Event	Location	Fatalities	Economic Loss (\$M)
01/04-01/06	Winter Weather	Great Plains, Mid-Atlantic	10	50
01/07-01/28	Eaton Fire	California	18	25,000
01/07-01/28	Palisades Fire	California	12	27,500
01/07-01/09	California Windstorm	California	0	200
01/09-01/11	Winter Weather	Southeast	0	150
01/12-01/13	Severe Convective Storm	Alaska	0	75
01/21-01/22	Winter Weather	Southeast	13	230
01/21-01/25	Winter Weather	Midwest, Northeast	0	550
01/31-02/07	Flooding	West	2	230
02/10-02/12	Winter Weather, SCS	Southeast	2	160
02/13-02/16	Flooding, SCS, WW	Nationwide	18	1,550
02/17-02/19	Winter Weather	Nationwide	4	150
02/22-02/25	Flooding	West	0	150
03/03-03/05	SCS, Winter Weather	Midwest, Southwest	6	2,500
03/07-03/10	Severe Convective Storm	Southeast	0	1,400
03/14-03/16	Severe Convective Storm	Nationwide	30	6,250
03/14-03/20	Wildfire, Dust Storm	South	12	400
03/18-03/19	Severe Convective Storm	Midwest	0	700
03/22-03/24	Severe Convective Storm	Southeast	0	950
03/25-03/26	Severe Convective Storm	South	0	300
03/26-03/28	Flooding	South	6	400
03/28-03/31	SCS, Winter Weather	Midwest, Southeast	8	1,500

North America (Non-U.S.)

Date(s)	Event	Location	Fatalities	Economic Loss (\$M)
02/15-02/19	Winter Weather	Canada	0	100
02/24-02/26	Flooding	Canada	0	160
03/28-03/31	Winter Weather	Canada	1	50

South America

Date(s)	Event	Location	Fatalities	Economic Loss (\$M)
01/01-01/31	Severe Convective Storm	Bolivia	18	N/A

01/01-02/28	Severe Convective Storm	Brazil	N/A	35
01/01-02/28	Flooding	Peru	7	N/A
01/01-03/31	Flooding	Ecuador	22	N/A
01/11-01/16	Flooding	Brazil	11	N/A
02/05-03/31	Flooding	Bolivia	29	N/A
03/07	Flooding	Argentina	16	375

Europe

Date(s)	Event	Location	Fatalities	Economic Loss (\$M)
01/05-01/07	Windstorm Floriane	Western & Northern Europe	1	460
01/17-01/19	Windstorm	Norway	0	20
01/23-01/25	Windstorm Éowyn	Ireland, United Kingdom	2	895
01/26-01/29	Windstorm Herminia, FL	Western & Northern Europe	1	275
02/14-02/15	Flooding	Italy, Greece	0	110
03/02-03/07	Flooding	Spain	1	55
03/04-03/06	Flooding	Norway	0	40
03/19-03/21	Windstorm Martinho	Portugal, Spain	0	105
03/26-03/31	Flooding, Landslides	Southeastern Europe	0	10

Africa

Date(s)	Event	Location	Fatalities	Economic Loss (\$M)
01/11-01/14	Cyclone Dikeledi	Southeast	14	N/A
02/01-02/20	Flooding	South Africa, Botswana	31	170
02/15-02/28	Flooding	Madagascar	11	N/A
02/27-02/28	Cyclone Garance	Réunion, Mauritius	5	940
02/27-03/01	Cyclone Honde	Madagascar	3	N/A
03/06-03/16	Cyclone Jude	Southeast	21	N/A

Asia

Date(s)	Event	Location	Fatalities	Economic Loss (\$M)
01/01-02/28	Winter Weather	Japan	4	65
01/02	Earthquake	China	0	35
01/07	Earthquake	China, Nepal	126	1,250
01/13-01/16	Flooding	Malaysia, Indonesia	17	N/A
01/19-01/30	Flooding	Indonesia	31	N/A
02/08	Landslide	China	29	Millions
02/25	Flooding	Afghanistan	39	N/A

03/20-03/22	Severe Convective Storm	India	2	Millions
03/21-03/31	Wildfires	South Korea	31	985
03/28	Earthquake	Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam	5,367+	5,100

Oceania

Date(s)	Event	Location	Fatalities	Economic Loss (\$M)
01/29-02/05	Flooding	Australia	2	220
03/06-03/08	Ex-Cyclone Alfred	Australia	1	820

References

California FAIR Plan
California Department of Insurance
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire)
U.S. National Weather Service (NWS)
U.S. Storm Prediction Center (SPC)
Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC)
Colorado State University (CSU)
Caisse Centrale de Réassurance (CCR)
Insurance Council of Australia (ICA)
Numerical Weather Prediction Models provided by National Weather Services (Météo-France, DWD, UK Met Office, NOAA, DMI, ECWMF)

Bruyère, C. L., Buckley, B., Jaye, A. B., Done, J. M., Leplastrier, M., Aldridge, J., Chan, P., Towler, E., & Ge, M. (2022). Using large climate model ensembles to assess historical and future tropical cyclone activity along the Australian east coast. *Weather and Climate Extremes*, 38, 100507.

Disclaimer

Please note that any financial loss estimate is preliminary and subject to change. These estimates are provided as an initial view of the potential financial impact from a recently completed or ongoing event based on early available assessments. Significant adjustments may inevitably occur.

All financial loss totals are in US dollars (\$) unless noted otherwise.

Structures are defined as any building — including barns, outbuildings, mobile homes, single or multiple family dwellings, and commercial facilities — that is damaged or destroyed by winds, earthquakes, hail, flood, tornadoes, hurricanes, or any other natural-occurring phenomenon.

Claims are defined as the number of claims (which could be a combination of homeowners, commercial, auto, and others) reported by various public and private insurance entities through press releases or various public media outlets.

Damage estimates are obtained from various public media sources, including news websites, publications from insurance companies, financial institution press releases, and official government agencies. Economic loss totals are separate from any available insured loss estimates. An insured loss is the portion of the economic loss covered by public or private insurance entities. In rare instances, specific events may include modeled loss estimates determined from utilizing Impact Forecasting's suite of catastrophe model products.

Fatality estimates as reported by public news media sources and official government agencies.

The information contained herein and the statements expressed are of a general nature and are not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. Although we endeavor to provide accurate and timely information and use sources we consider reliable, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No one should act on such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation.

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