

18 Natural Hazards Included in the National Risk Index

Detailed information can be found at <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/natural-hazards>

Avalanche

- An Avalanche is a mass of snow in swift motion traveling down a mountainside.

Costal Flooding

- Coastal Flooding is when water inundates or covers normally dry coastal land as a result of high or rising tides or storm surges.

Cold Wave

- A Cold Wave is a rapid fall in temperature within 24 hours and extreme low temperatures for an extended period. The temperatures classified as a cold wave are dependent on the location and defined by the local National Weather Service (NWS) weather forecast office.

Drought

- A Drought is a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time resulting in a water shortage.

Earthquake

- An Earthquake is a shaking of the earth's surface by energy waves emitted by slowly moving tectonic plates overcoming friction with one another underneath the earth's surface.

Hail

- Hail is a form of precipitation that occurs during thunderstorms when raindrops, in extremely cold areas of the atmosphere, freeze into balls of ice before falling towards the earth's surface.

Heat Wave

- A Heat Wave is a period of abnormally and uncomfortably hot and unusually humid weather typically lasting two or more days with temperatures outside the historical averages for a given area.

Hurricane

- A Hurricane is a tropical cyclone or localized, low-pressure weather system that has organized thunderstorms but no front (a boundary separating two air masses of different densities) and maximum sustained winds of at least 74 mph.

Ice Storm

- An Ice Storm is a freezing rain situation (rain that freezes on surface contact) with significant ice accumulations of 0.25 inches or greater.

Landslide

- A Landslide is the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope.

Lightning

- Lightning is a visible electrical discharge or spark of electricity in the atmosphere between clouds, the air and/or the ground often produced by a thunderstorm.

Riverine Flooding

- Riverine Flooding is when streams and rivers exceed the capacity of their natural or constructed channels to accommodate water flow and water overflows the banks, spilling out into adjacent low-lying, dry land.

Strong Wind

- Strong Wind consists of damaging winds, often originating from thunderstorms, that are classified as exceeding 58 mph.

Tornado

- A Tornado is a narrow, violently rotating column of air that extends from the base of a thunderstorm to the ground and is visible only if it forms a condensation funnel made up of water droplets, dust, and debris.

Tsunami

- A Tsunami is a wave or series of waves generated by an Earthquake, Landslide, volcanic eruption, or even a large meteor hitting the ocean and causing a rise or mounding of water at the ocean surface. A Tsunami can travel across open ocean at about 500 mph and slow down to about 30 mph as it approaches land, causing it to grow significantly in height.

Volcanic Activity

- Volcanic Activity occurs via vents that act as a conduit between the Earth's surface and inner layers, and erupt gas, molten rock, and volcanic ash when gas pressure and buoyancy drive molten rock upward and through zones of weakness in the Earth's crust.

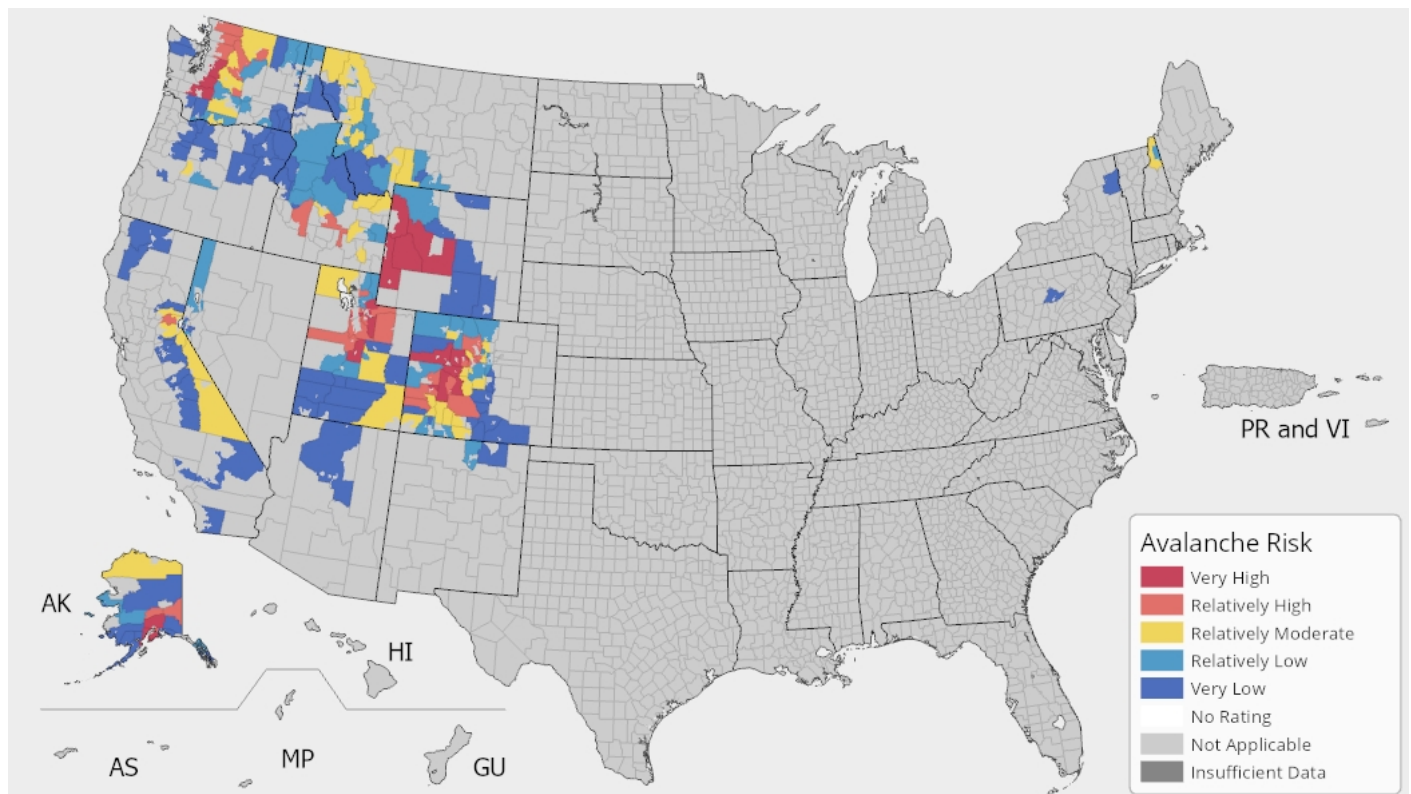
Wildfire

- A Wildfire is an unplanned fire burning in natural or wildland areas such as forests, shrub lands, grasslands, or prairies.

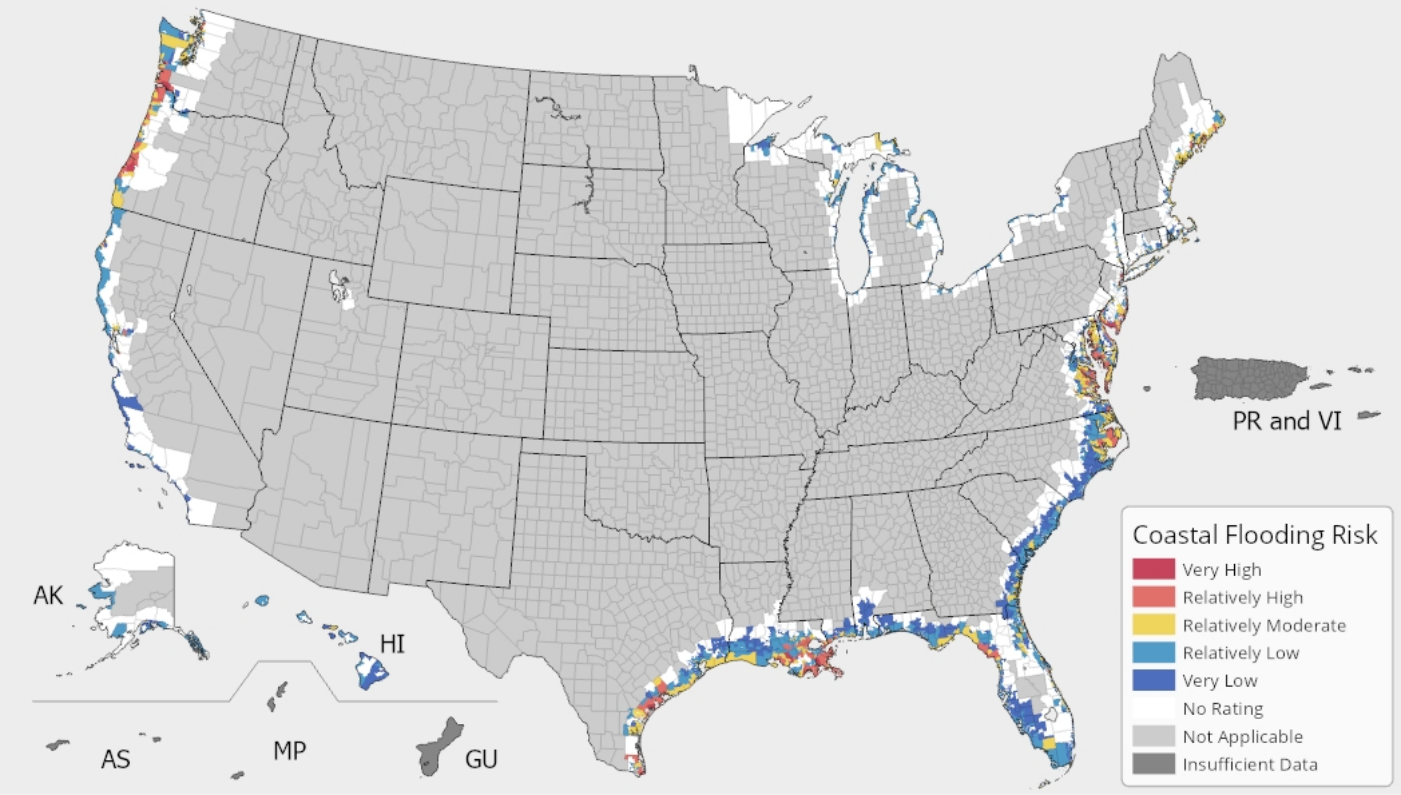
Winter Weather

- Winter Weather consists of winter storm events in which the main types of precipitation are snow, sleet, or freezing rain.

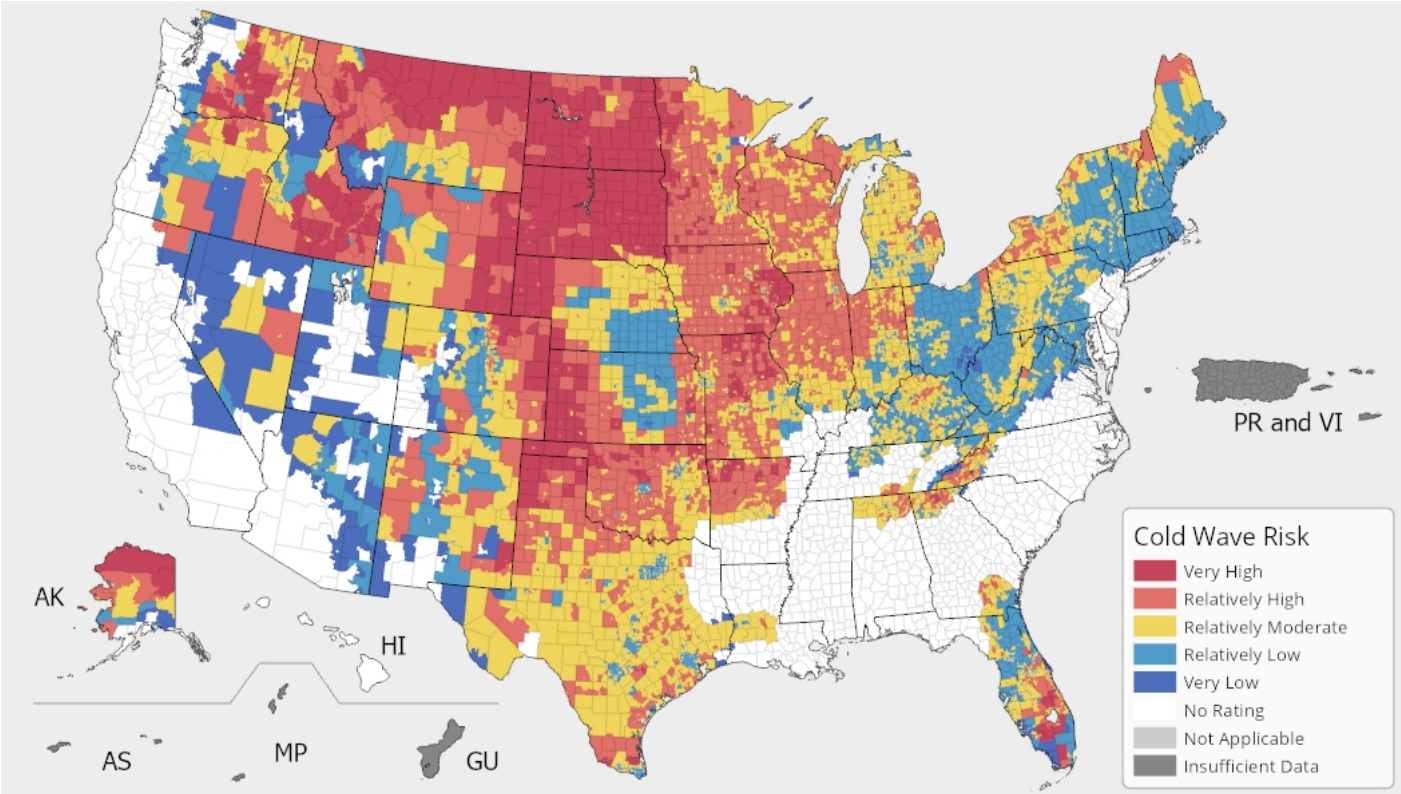
Avalanche



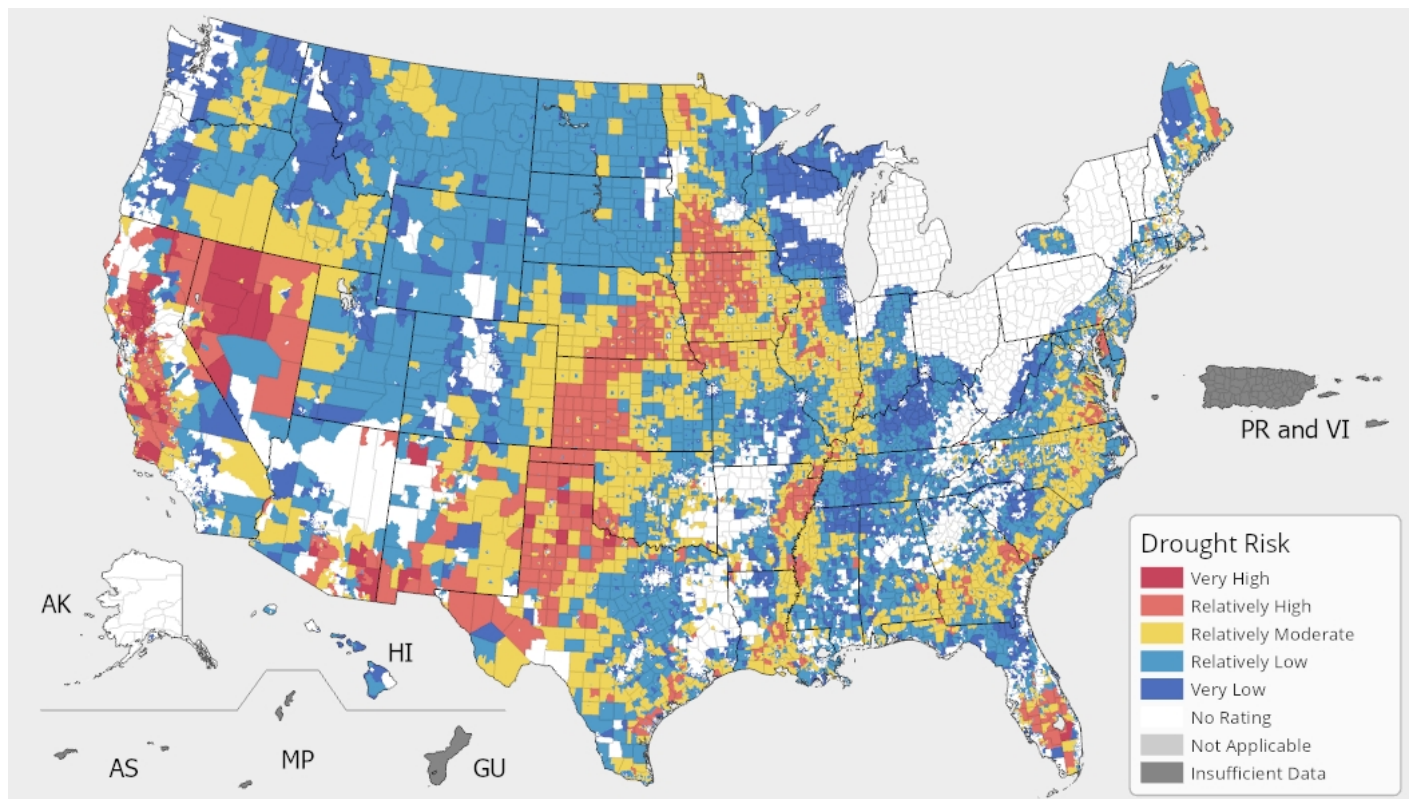
Costal Flooding



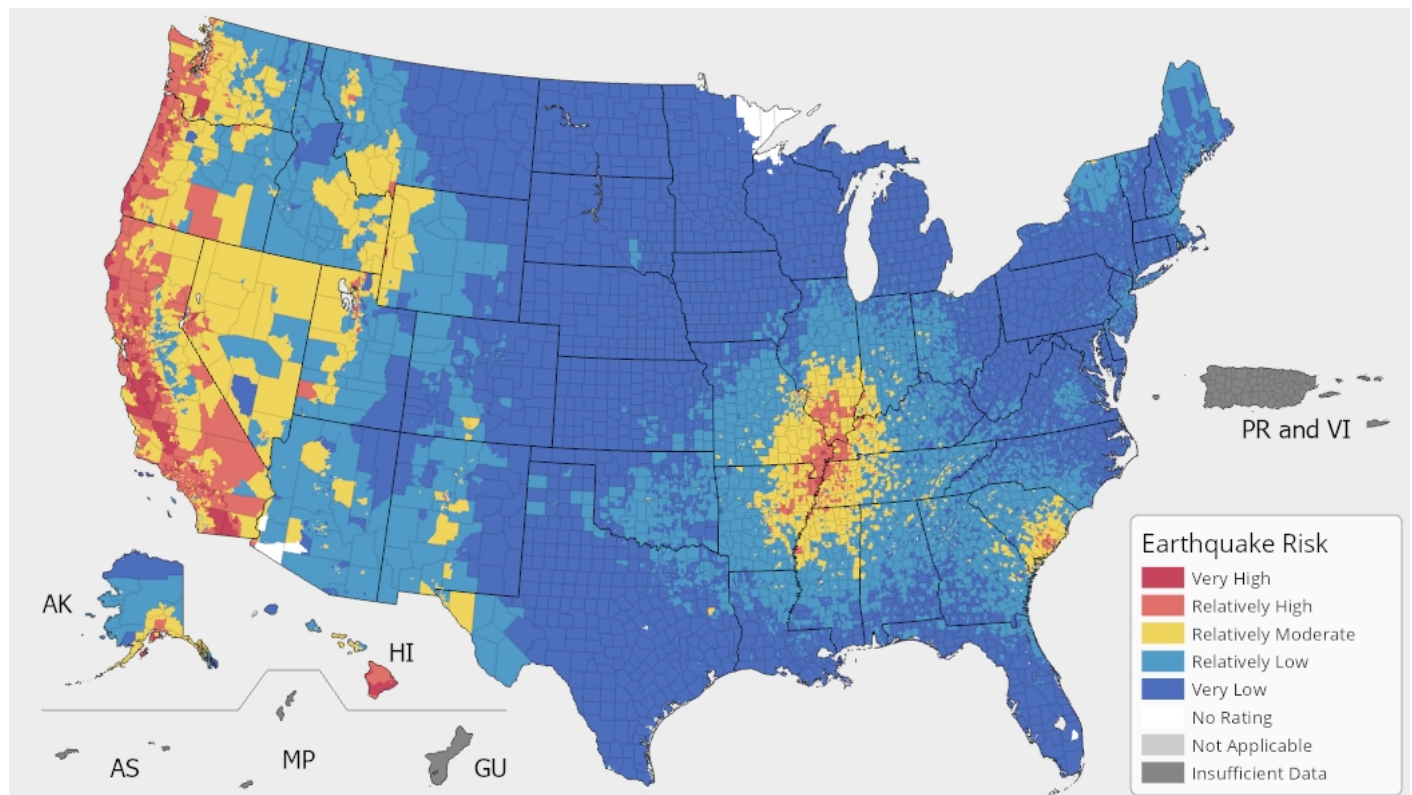
Cold Wave



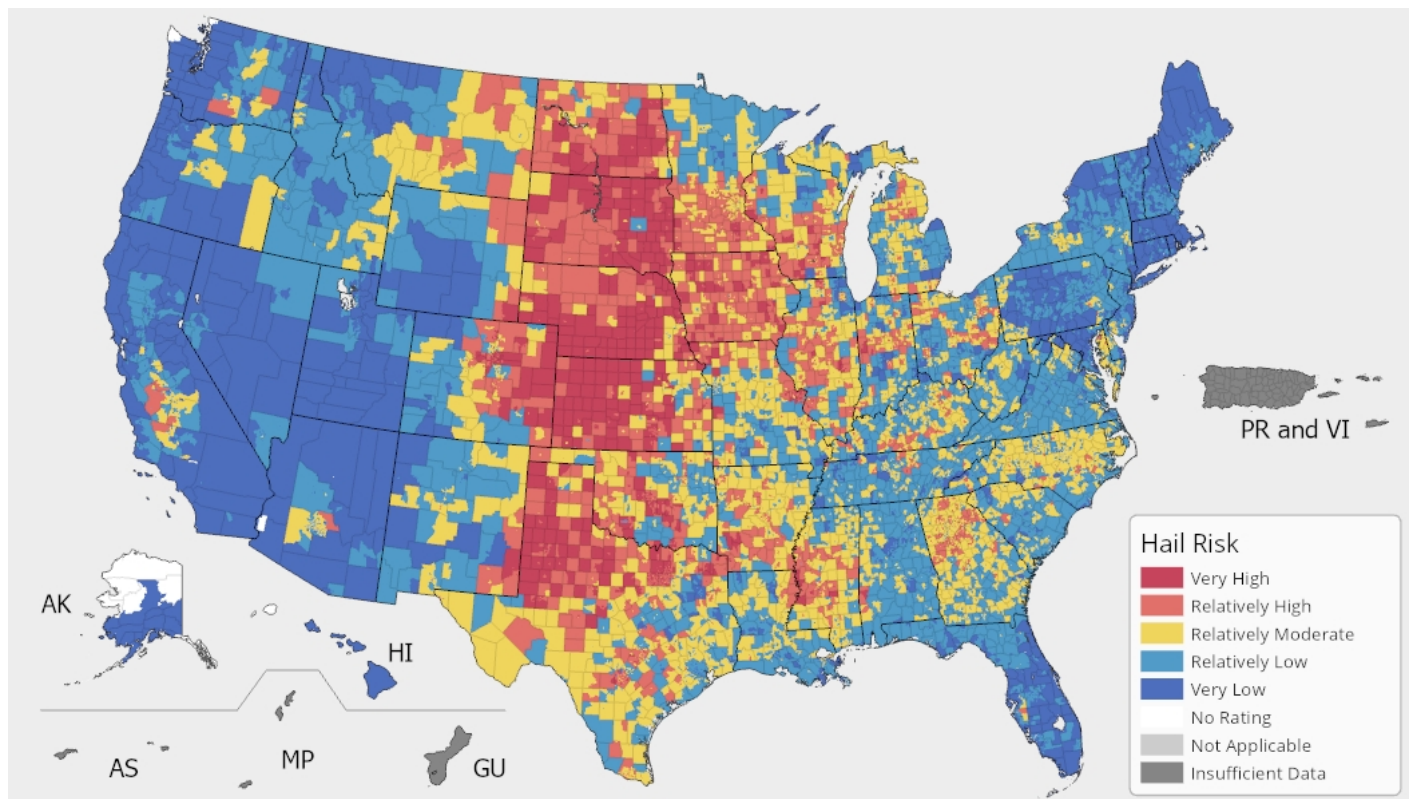
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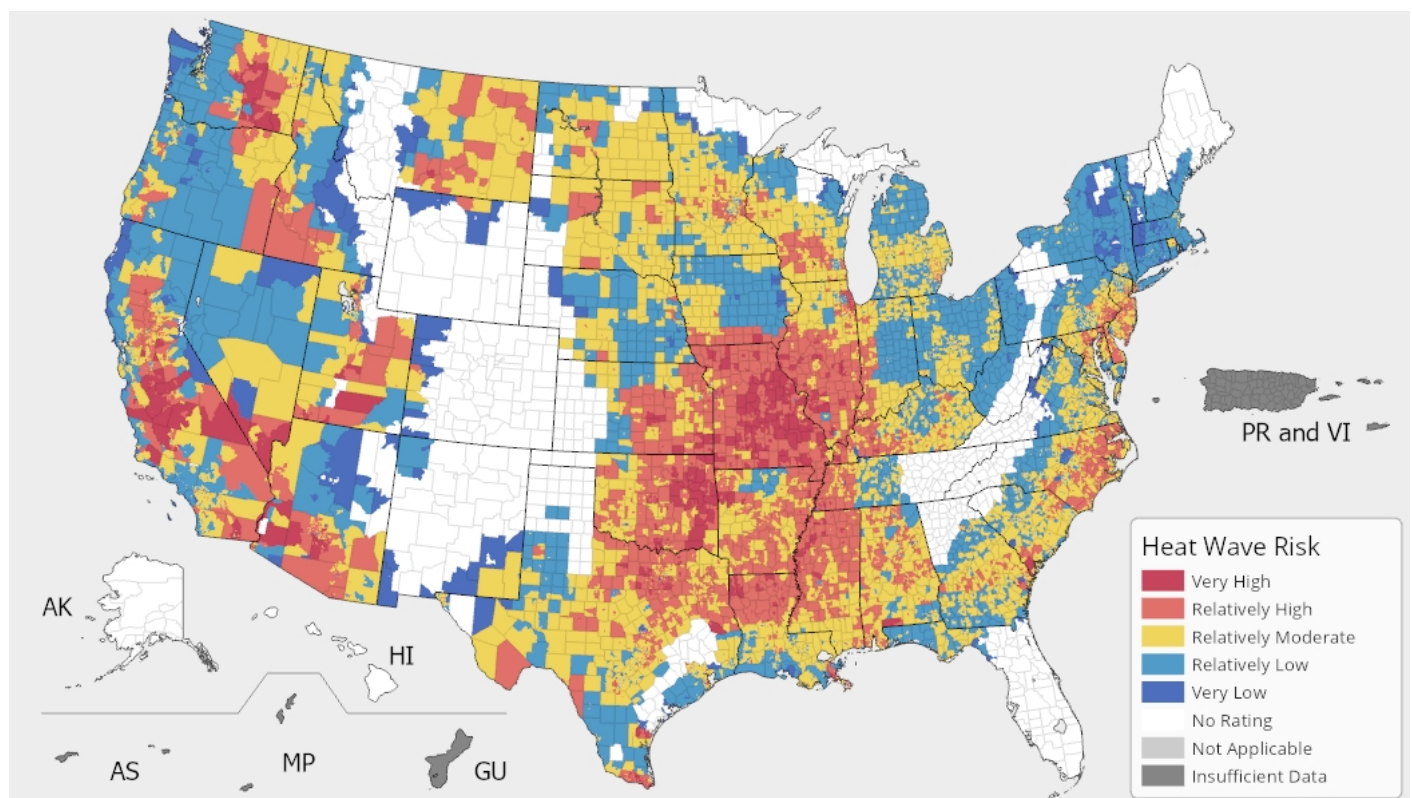
Earthquake



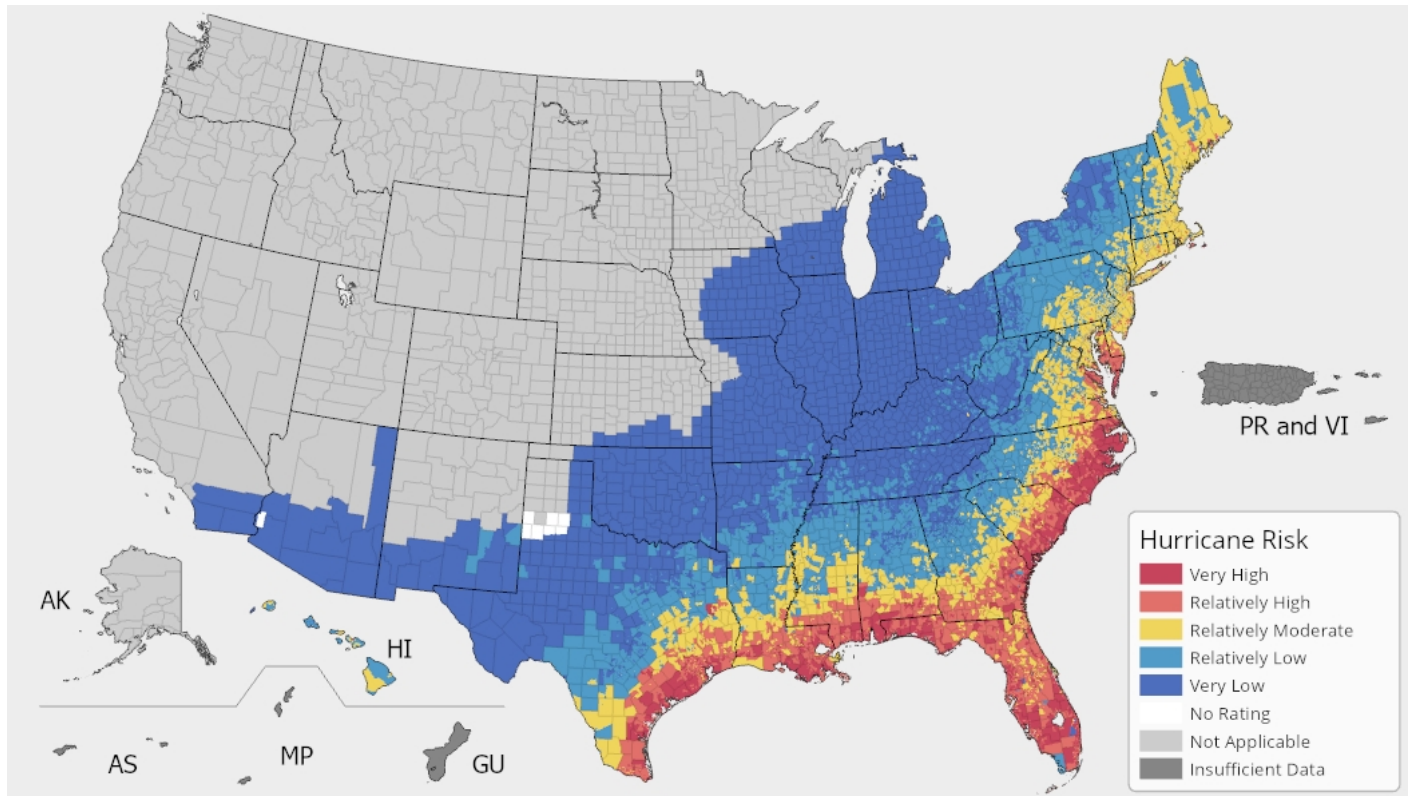
Hail



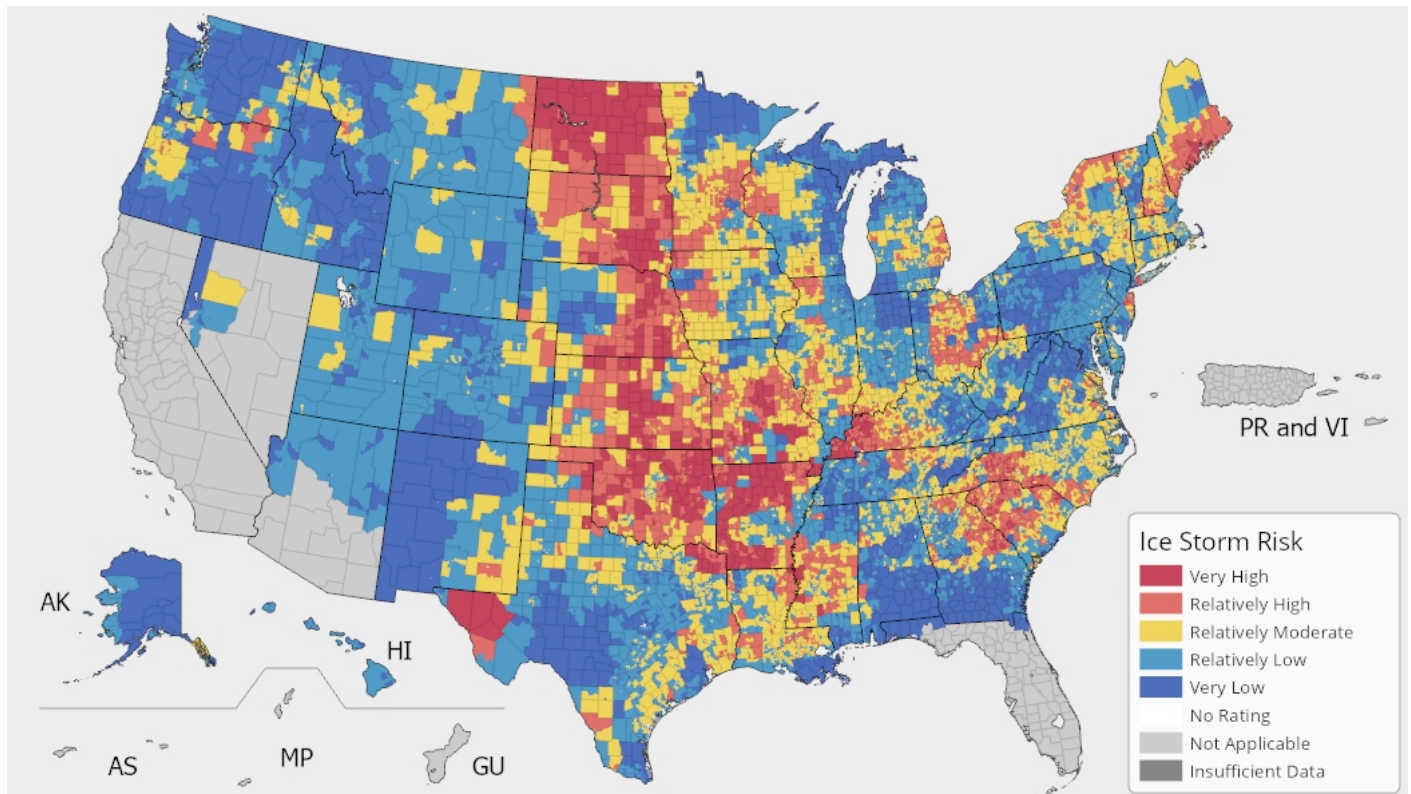
Heat Wave



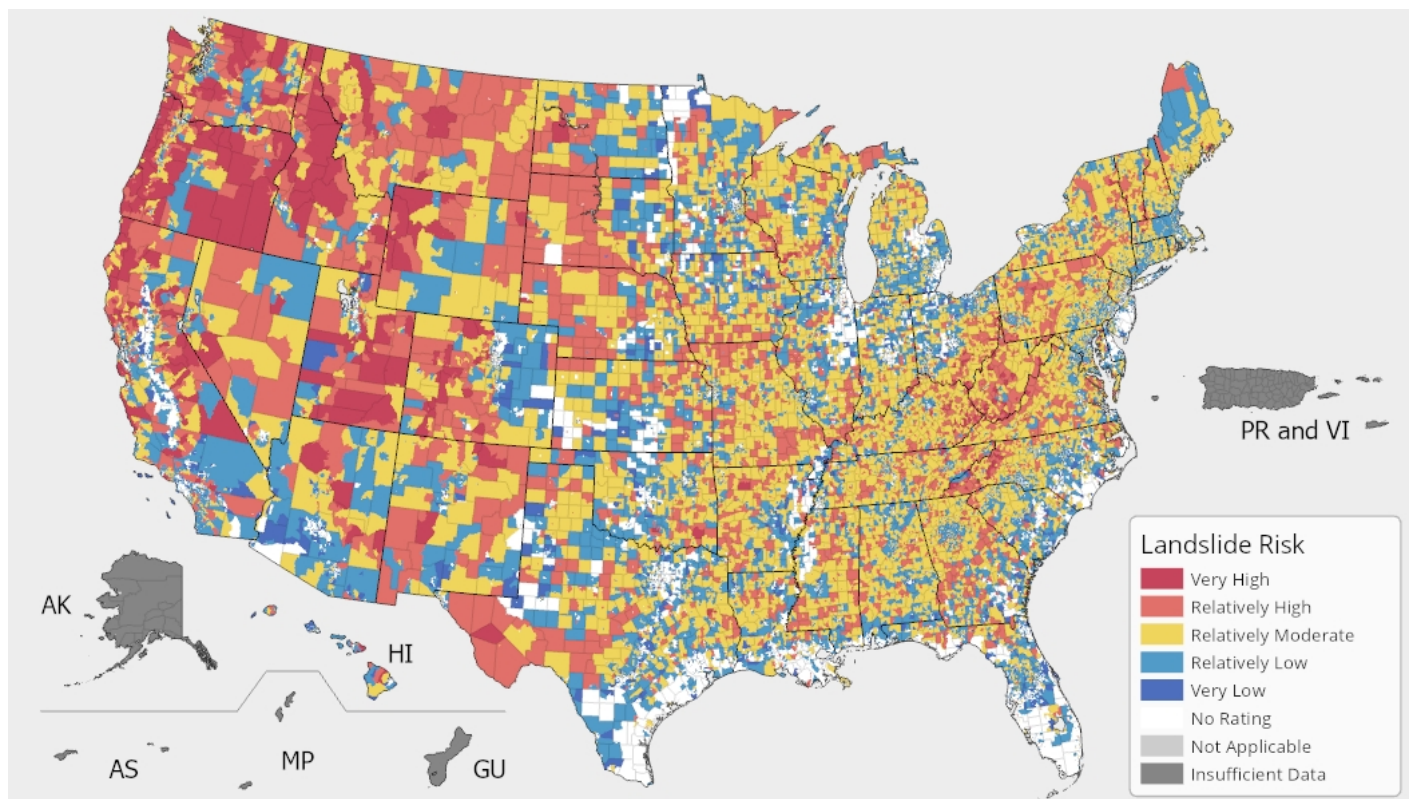
Hurricane



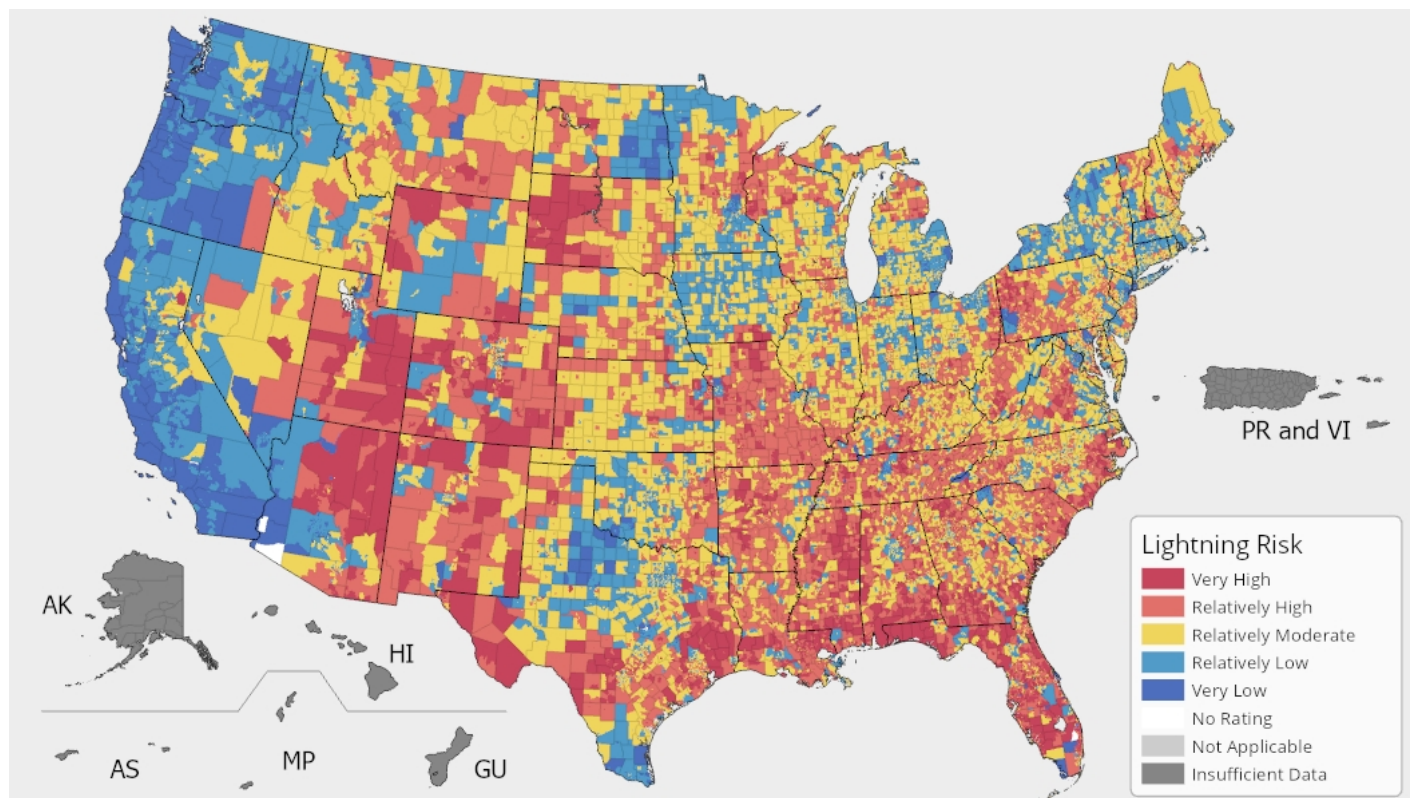
Ice Storm



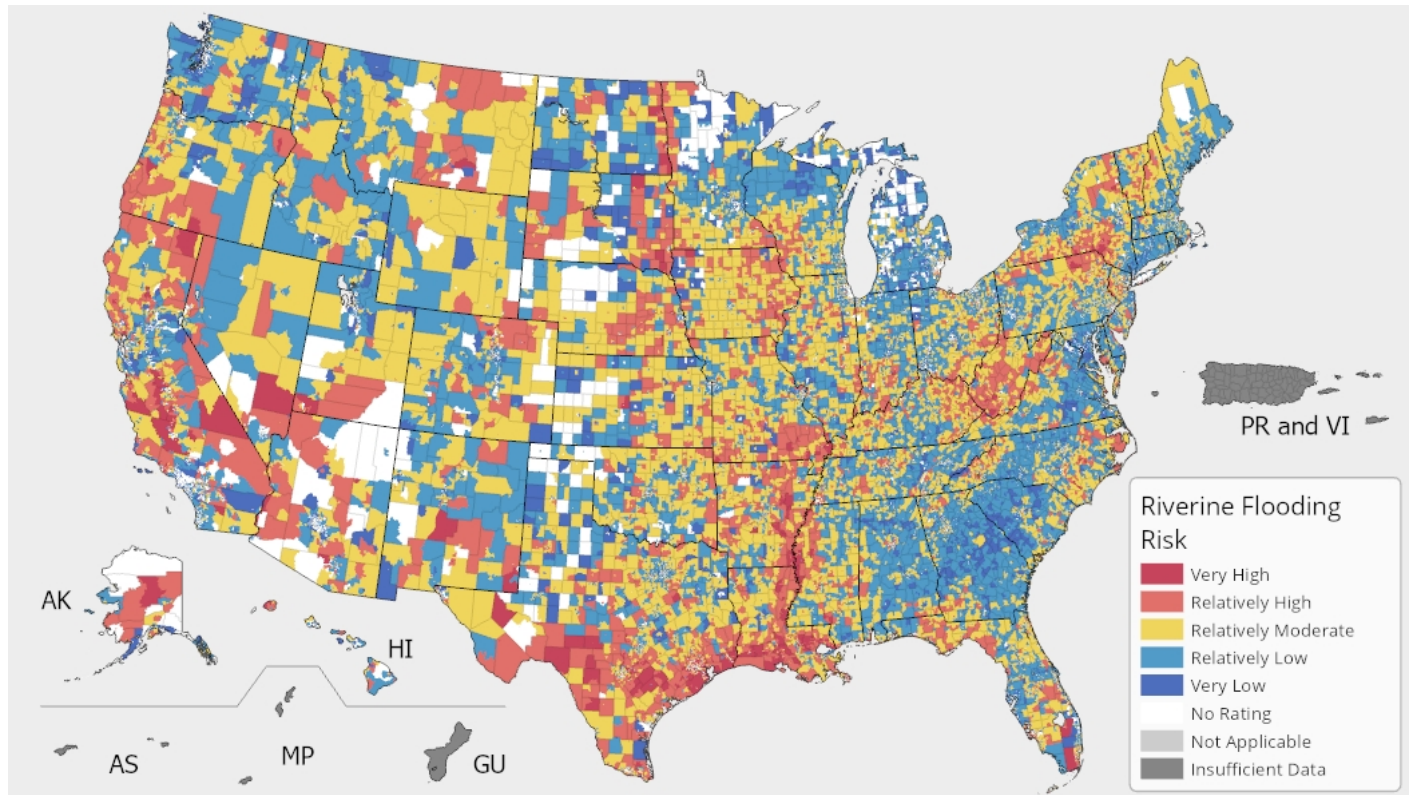
Landslide



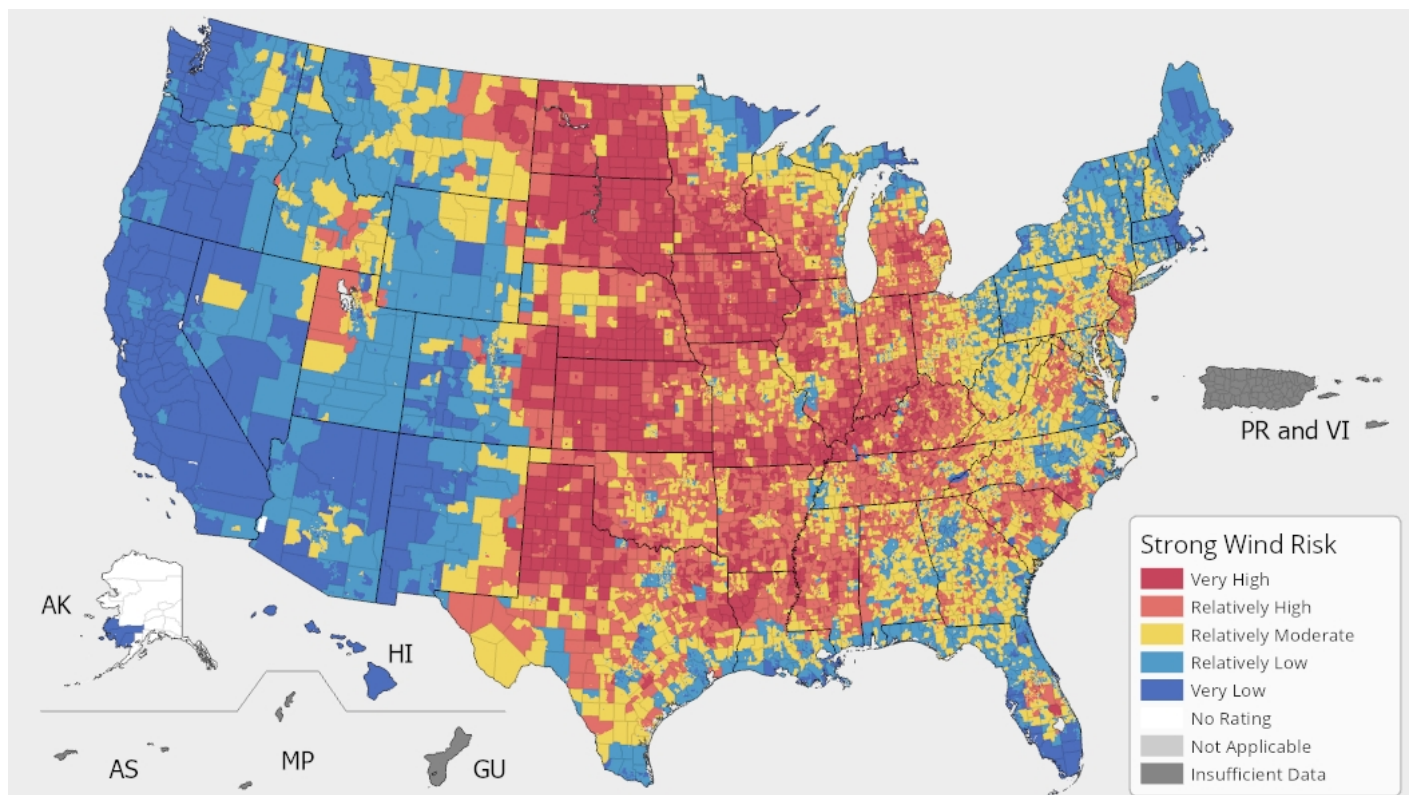
Lightning



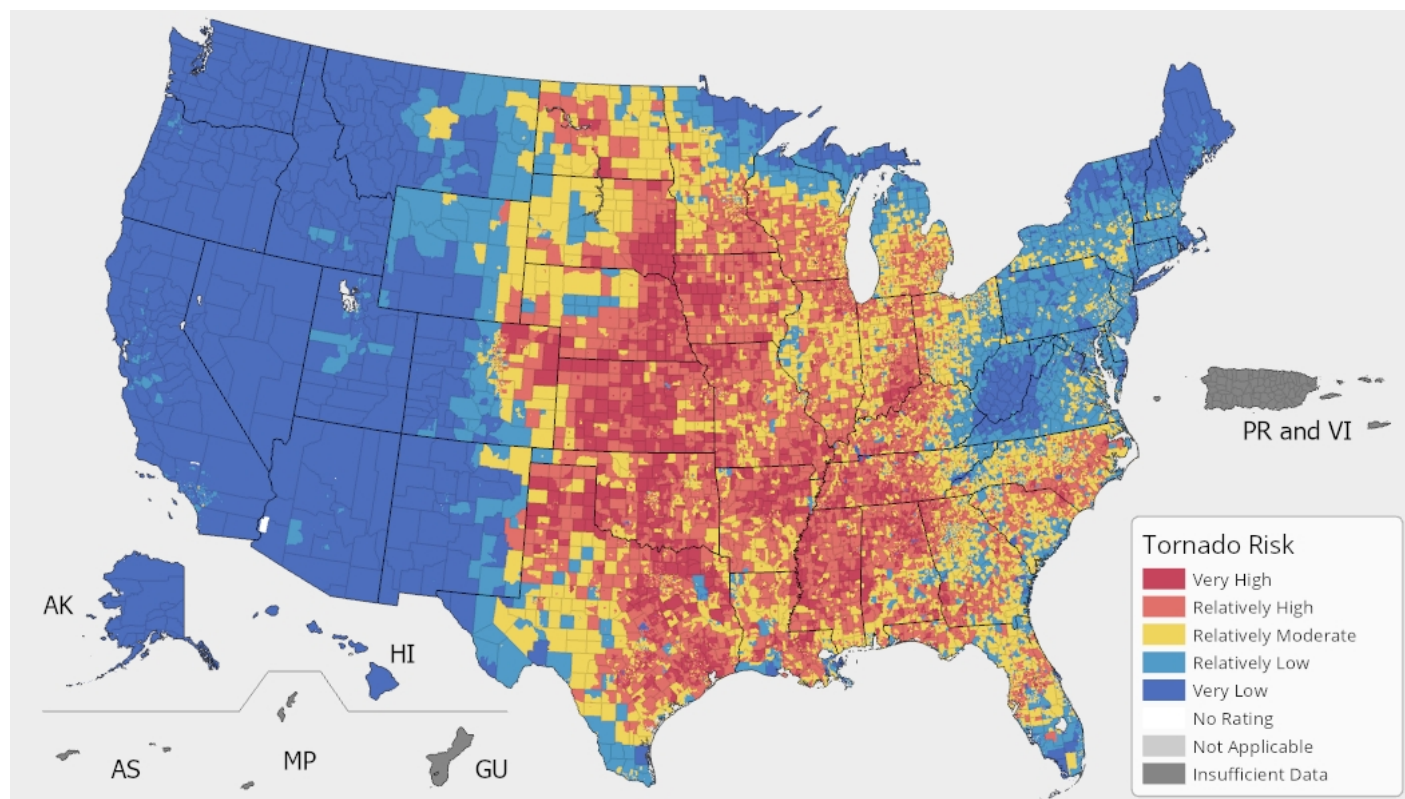
Riverine Flooding



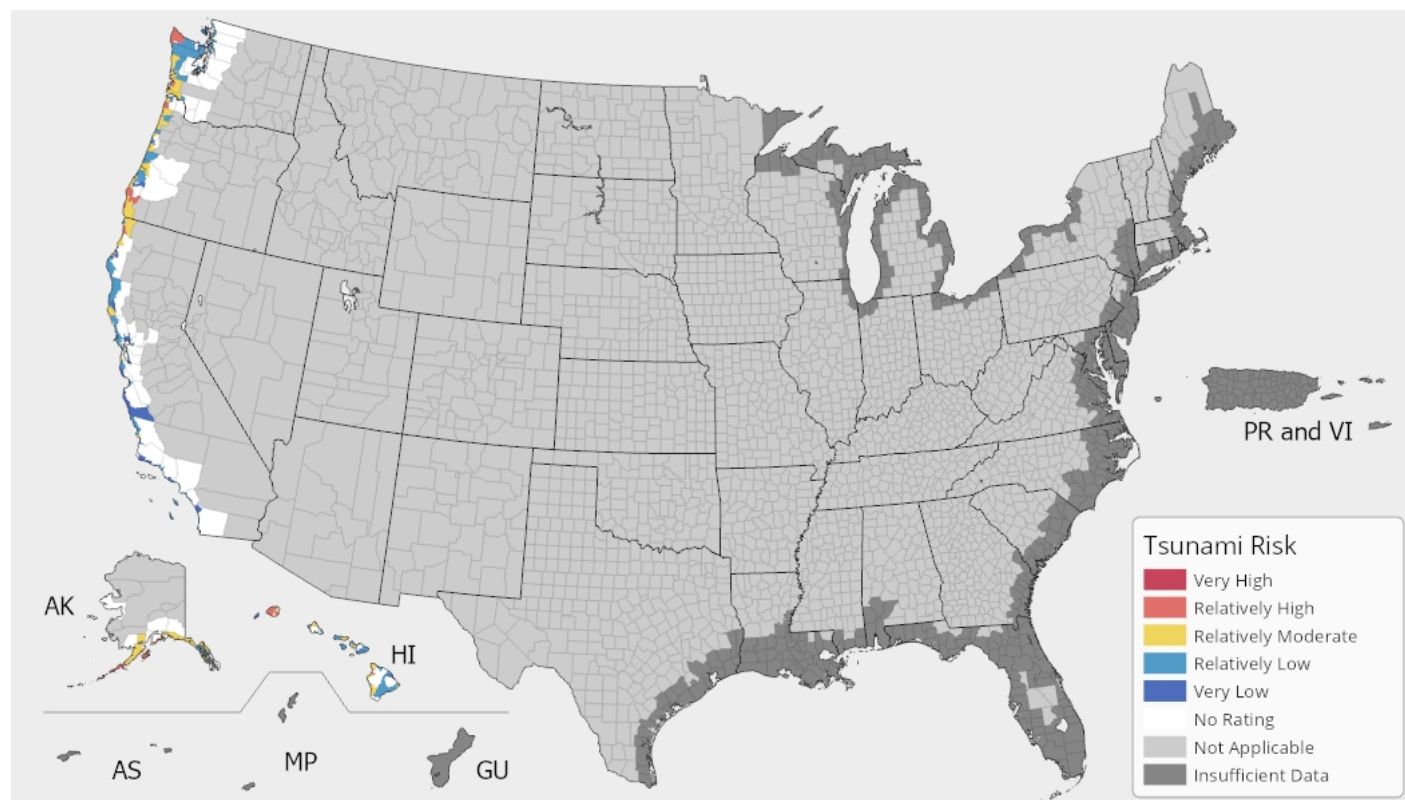
Strong Wind



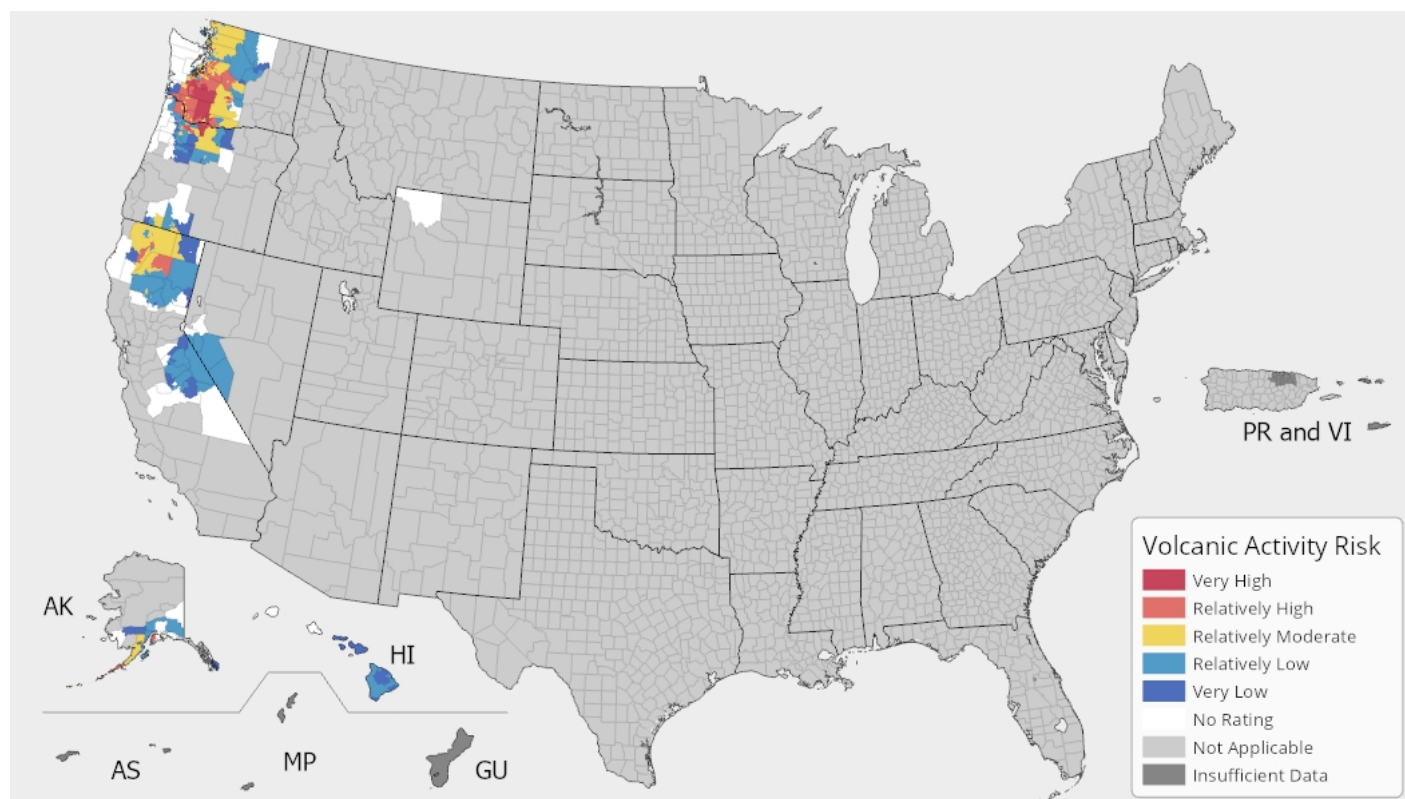
Tornado



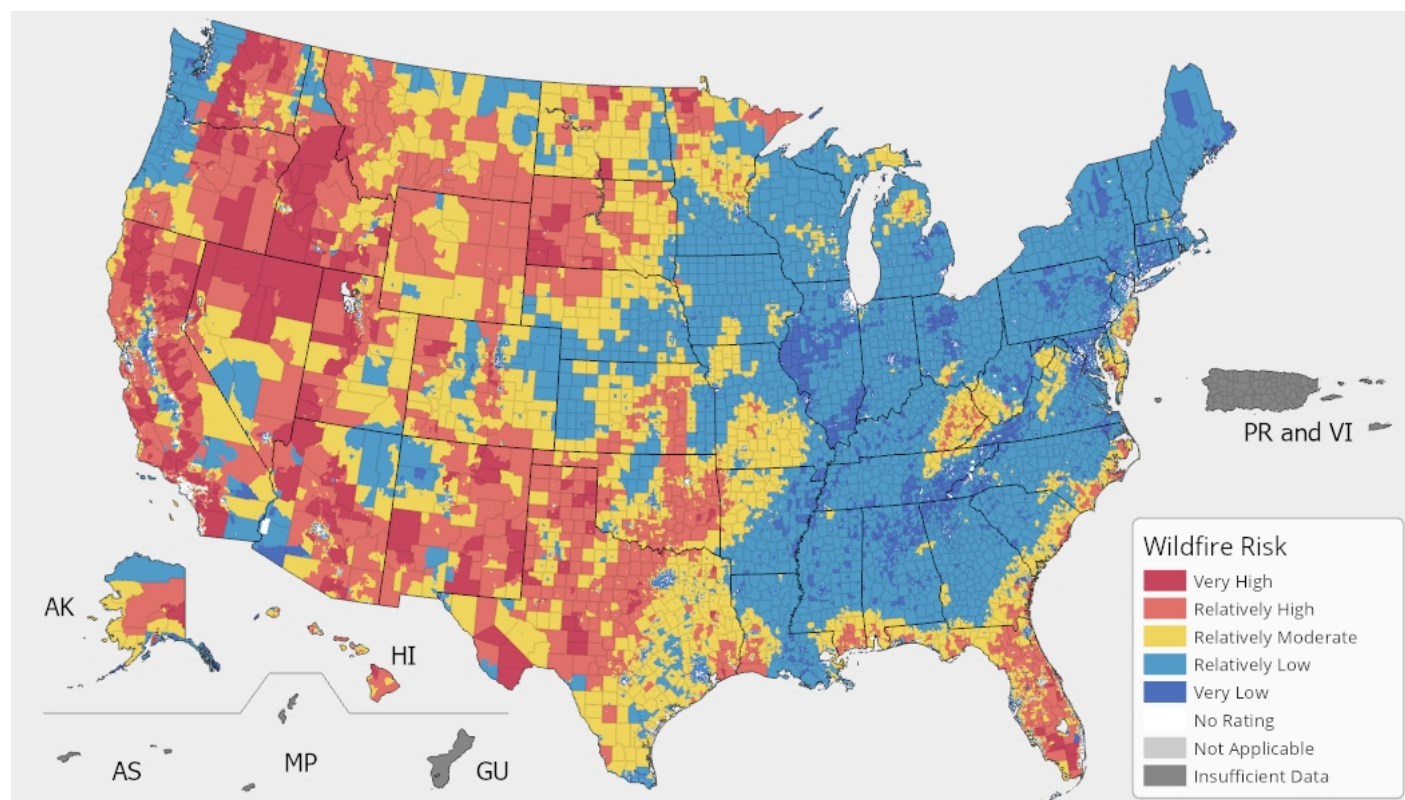
Tsunami



Volcanic Activity



Wildfire



Winter Weather

