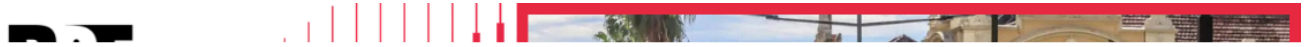


# Climate Crisis Safety Guide (1/5): Defining Climate Resilience

resources.rsf.org/climate-crisis-safety-guide-1-5-defining-climate-resilience/

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13 April 2026



This post is part 1 of 5 in the series [Climate crisis](#)

The climate emergency has made **resilience** a *buzzword*, used in the news, academia and corporate jargon.

## Why?

Resilience to extreme events is the ability to adapt and recover from the impacts of storms, droughts, floods, and other disasters.\* Building resilience therefore means understanding potential risks in different scenarios, both in terms of visible consequences of climate change and those likely to occur, and developing and implementing plans to mitigate these risks or withstand climate events.

*\*Definition by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).*

Extreme events expose journalists and other professionals to physical, urban, material, and psychological risks. From the lack of **basic conditions due to interruptions in internet, electricity, and/or water supply in offices or loss of personal equipment**, to **precarious employment and lack of information**, problems and vulnerabilities can arise in times of crisis.

In newsrooms, resilience involves a combination of coverage challenges and organisational factors, which unfortunately are still largely overlooked. Some of the main obstacles identified are:

[Graph1\\_ENG.png](#)

Access the full version of the [Climate Crisis Safety Guide for journalists in Portuguese](#).

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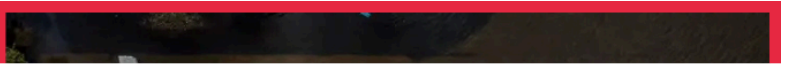
# Climate Crisis Safety Guide (2/5): How to develop a climate resilience plan

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13 April 2026



This post is part 2 of 5 in the series [Climate crisis](#)

**A good start to planning climate resilience for a news organisation is to understand what updates are necessary in the context of a disaster.**

Safety and contingency protocols are essential for journalistic teams to be able to act in disaster scenarios. The following five-step cycle, organised by [the US Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) and detailed below, aims to help structure a climate resilience plan in organisations.

[Graph2\\_ENG](#)

Although it may seem complex, this plan can be adapted to media outlets of different sizes and realities.

**Check out the step-by-step guide:**

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## 1 – First step

Structure the team: who will be the leader (or leaders) and which team will be responsible for creating this plan, if possible, people from different areas.

## 2 – Understand the exposure

- Create an inventory of everything your office needs to continue functioning in the event of extreme events, physical assets, infrastructure, and people.

- List disasters that have already occurred and those that are likely to occur in the future, such as floods, fires, and flooding. Important: local scientists usually already have this mapped out.
- Now create a MATRIX: in a spreadsheet, the left column lists the items necessary for the organisation to function and the top column lists the disaster risks. In each cell, answer whether that resource could be affected by that risk.

### **3 – Assess vulnerabilities and risks**

- Assess the greater or lesser vulnerability of each resource based on its sensitivity to a particular disaster and its ability to adapt.
- Create a spreadsheet with the resources in the first column and, in the following columns, potential impact, sensitivity, adaptive capacity, and vulnerability. Describe the potential impact of each risk on the resource and classify the above items as high, medium, or low.

### [Graph3\\_ENG](#)

### **4 – Investigate options**

- Based on the risks and vulnerabilities you have mapped, compile a list of strategies that could reduce them.
- Analysing past extreme events can help reveal potential solutions.
- Based on the current and future reality of your vehicle, assess the consequences of implementing each of the strategies. Classify them as feasible, potentially feasible, or not feasible.

### **5 – Prioritise and plan**

For each action you believe is possible to implement, evaluate the items below and only proceed with actions that have positive answers:

- Do the benefits outweigh the costs? Which professionals need to be involved?
- What is the cost-benefit ratio? Estimate the value of having reduced risk or a more resilient scenario and other benefits.
- What are the associated financial costs? Is the value of these benefits comparable to or greater than the cost of implementing the project?

### **6 – Take action**

Communicate the actions clearly to the rest of the organisation. If any of the solutions do not fit the previously mapped objectives, it is always possible to change them. Just don't get discouraged!

Access the full version of the [Climate Crisis Safety Guide for journalists in Portuguese](#).

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# Climate Crisis Safety Guide (3/5): Safety recommendations for covering extreme events

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**RF** [resources.rsf.org/climate-crisis-safety-guide-3-5-safety-recommendations-for-covering-extreme-events/](https://resources.rsf.org/climate-crisis-safety-guide-3-5-safety-recommendations-for-covering-extreme-events/)

<https://web-cdn.bsky.app/profile/rsf.org>

13 April 2026



This post is part 3 of 5 in the series [Climate crisis](#)

**The following recommendations are essential for the safety of journalists directly involved in covering extreme events. They were prepared based on documents from organisations such as Reporters Without Borders (RSF), the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the James Fowley Foundation, and the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism.**

## Advance planning and risk assessment

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- The first step towards safe coverage is to conduct a thorough risk assessment, detailing potential health hazards and medical evacuation procedures:
- Safety and health conditions at the destination
- Weather conditions and any specific issues
- Key local authorities
- Emergency services and other contacts that can be called upon in an emergency

## On-site security

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### [Graph4\\_ENG](#)

Constantly monitor the weather forecast, which can change quickly, requiring immediate changes to plans. When travelling to cover disasters, whenever possible, rely on support staff at the newsroom:

- Identify safe accommodation with access to food and water. It is often safer to stay outside the epicentre of destruction and travel to the affected area.
- Ensure that the accommodation is far from areas prone to flooding, such as low-lying areas, depressions, and dry riverbeds.
- When reporting in the midst of storms, avoid locations with large glass windows or corrugated metal roofs.
- Have a pre-planned exit strategy and access to reliable, independent transport, bearing in mind that you may be unable to use public transport and taxis.

## [Graph5\\_ENG](#)

### **Communication**

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A clear communication plan is a key component of safety.

- Provide regular updates on your next steps and your location to the newsroom during your stay in the disaster area.
- Notify them of any changes to your planned itinerary or emergency escape route.
- Whenever possible, inform local authorities of your location.
- Activate a geolocation application on your mobile phone so that your position can be tracked while you report.



### **Health and hygiene**

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In disaster areas, standing water is a health hazard as it may be contaminated with sewage and hazardous chemicals, spreading infectious diseases. Taking precautions to avoid getting sick is essential, especially since medical facilities may be overwhelmed or non-existent:

- Wash your hands regularly
- Check the source of the water you consume

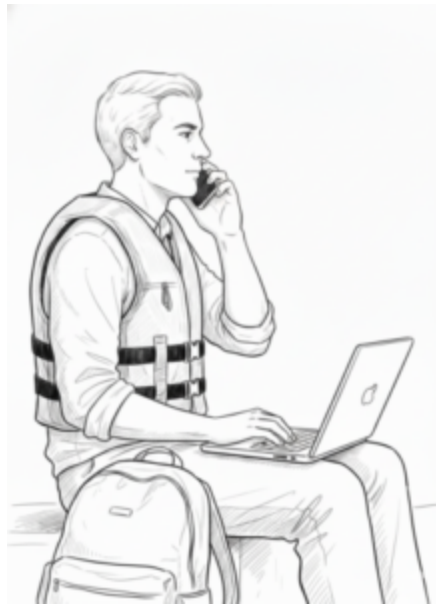
- Never expose open wounds to flood water
- Personal hygiene must be maintained to avoid getting sick. If clean water is unavailable, use wet wipes.
- Long-sleeved clothing and easy-to-clean plastic boots can also provide a layer of protection.

## Psychological care

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News organisations should help their staff access resources such as psychological support, as well as accommodation for those most affected.

- Be alert to signs of trauma in yourself and your colleagues: difficulty concentrating, unusual irritability, intrusive thoughts or images, constant sleep disturbance, social isolation.
- Strategies to help cope: maintain social connections, schedule recovery time, seek support from colleagues, attend therapy sessions.



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# Climate Crisis Safety Guide (4/5): Suggested Equipment for covering the climate crisis

RF [resources.rsf.org/climate-crisis-safety-guide-4-5-suggested-equipment-for-covering-climate-crisis/](https://resources.rsf.org/climate-crisis-safety-guide-4-5-suggested-equipment-for-covering-climate-crisis/)

<https://web-cdn.bsky.app/profile/rsf.org>

13 April 2026



This post is part 4 of 5 in the series [Climate crisis](#)

**The list of equipment for covering extreme events suggested below has been organised into two levels of importance. The incorporation and selection of which equipment will be necessary will depend on the type of extreme event being covered by the journalist. Some of the suggested items require familiarisation before moments of crisis.**

## Priority 1

- **Journalistic equipment:**
  - Waterproof camera.
  - Microphone for mobile phone.
- **Water:** between 3 and 4 litres per person per day for at least three days, especially in situations where water sources may have been compromised. Also consider filter straws or purification tablets.
- **Non-perishable food:** focus on high-calorie items such as energy bars, canned goods (meat, tuna, fruit), nuts, dried fruit and peanut butter.
- **First aid kit:** bandages/dressings of various sizes, sterile gauze, eye dressings, antiseptic wipes/cream, painkillers (paracetamol, ibuprofen), adhesive tape, scissors, tweezers, disposable gloves and potentially a thermometer. Include personal prescriptions (at least for one week, ideally two), copies of prescriptions, and any specific medical needs.

- **Torch/headlamp and extra batteries:** essential when the power goes out. Consider LED models, which are durable and waterproof. A dynamo torch is a battery-free backup.
- **Communication and power device:**
  - **Mobile phone and charger:** your primary method of contact.
  - **Power bank/extra batteries:** critical for keeping phones charged when there is no power. Opt for a minimum of 10,000 mAh. Remember to bring them charged.
  - **Headphones:** during street coverage, they are important for listening to audio and, depending on the context/noise in the environment, help you hear and understand better.
  - **Satellite phone:** options in case the regular network fails.
  - **Portable battery-powered or hand-crank radio:** to receive emergency broadcasts and weather updates.
- **Cash:** crucial when electronic payment systems fail.
- **Important documents (copies and originals):**
  - Press ID/credential, driving licence, passport
  - Insurance cards
  - Birth certificate, vaccination records, important family documents
  - Emergency contact lists (work and personal)
  - Bank/credit card details
  - Keep physical copies in a waterproof/fireproof bag and secure digital copies (encrypted cloud storage or separate device)
- **Backpack:** sturdy and easy to carry. Consider waterproof covers.
- **Appropriate clothing and footwear:**
  - Sturdy, closed-toe, waterproof boots with ankle support. Avoid footwear that comes off easily. Wellies for areas of heavy flooding.
  - Layers suitable for variable weather: rain jacket/poncho, hat (sun/heat), gloves, extra socks/underwear. Avoid flammable materials such as nylon. Natural fibres or moisture-wicking fabrics are generally best.

## Priority 2

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- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), depending on the situation:**
  - **Helmet:** sturdy sports helmets (climbing, skateboarding) for civil unrest or disaster zones, and ballistic-grade helmets for conflict zones.
  - **Masks (dust/respirator):** N95 masks or better (FFP2/FFP3) in contaminated air, dust or smoke. Full-face/half-face respirators with appropriate filters against gases (such as tear gas) and particles, but require a tight seal (no facial hair) and can be uncomfortable.
  - **Gloves:** work gloves or nitrile gloves (latex-free).
  - **High-visibility vest:** in low-light environments or near traffic/rescue operations.
- **Sunscreen and insect repellent:** especially in hot locations.
- **Multitool or pocket knife:** scissors, pliers, knife, screwdriver, can opener.
- **Hygiene supplies:** wet wipes, 70% alcohol hand sanitiser, soap, toilet paper, zip-lock bin bags, toothbrush/toothpaste, sanitary towels.
- **Adhesive tape:** for repairs or securing items.
- **Whistle:** metal whistle to signal for help if you are trapped or lost.
- **Emergency blanket:** lightweight thermal blanket for warmth/shock.
- **Maps:** physical maps of the local area in case of no internet signal.
- **Notepad and pen/pencil:** for when electronics fail.
- **Waterproof lighter or matches:** for lighting fires (if safe and necessary).

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# Climate Crisis Safety Guide (5/5): Coverage Post Disaster

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13 April 2026

This post is part 5 of 5 in the series [Climate crisis](#)

**The increase in the frequency of extreme events and, consequently, in media coverage of the subject, makes it clear: the climate can no longer be considered a distant political issue, disconnected from the daily lives of the population. Furthermore, in order for journalists to be able to work competently, thoroughly and appropriately, it is essential that media outlets give the issue the importance it deserves.**

Based on interviews with environmental communication researcher [Eloisa Loose](#) and journalist [Kyle Pope](#), co-founder of the [Covering Climate Now](#) observatory, here are some important guidelines for covering extreme events beyond the tragedy:

- **Connected agenda:** the environmental issue should be related to areas such as politics, economics, etc., with possibilities for different frameworks.
- **Systemic and critical approach:** from the origins of the disaster to possible solutions and the reconstruction phase, assessing whether the measures are truly resilient. Attention: the focus should be on environmental issues, but the most devastating negative impacts always affect the most vulnerable communities, perpetuating a situation of climate injustice.
- **Training of journalists:** a consistent base of information about the environment and circumstances that can lead to disasters. Remembering that, often, public authorities have conflicting information about what is happening.

Understanding the public policies that govern cities is essential to understanding the use of urban space, which is so closely linked to extreme events.

Training tailored to the local reality and the editorial proposal of each media outlet, rather than generic courses that may have a limited effect.

Expansion and diversification of sources, so as not to be exclusively dependent on official sources, such as the Civil Defence, which may have limited information disclosure due to internal protocols. Local researchers, environmental agency technicians, professional councils, and movements and projects that discuss vulnerabilities are important sources for treating information more comprehensively.

**Collaboration among colleagues** A pre-existing support network can be vital for the continuity of news coverage during an emergency. These collaborations should be established before times of crisis.

**Decentralisation** It is essential to understand the global picture, but no less important to understand the specific vulnerabilities of the location where you will be reporting. To do this, it is necessary to map out critical infrastructure points in advance, such as roads and motorways that may be affected, as well as to be aware of the authorities' plans for these situations.

- **Localise:** climate coverage should focus on what is happening in the reader's community, not on reports or events in other parts of the world.
- **Humanise:** Do not focus solely on data and research. Interview people and recount their experiences, obviously respecting each person's circumstances and limits and their willingness or unwillingness to give statements.
- **Offer solutions:** avoid gloomy and apocalyptic coverage. It is crucial to show that there are actions and solutions that can be taken – many of which already exist and do not need to be invented.

### ***Climate Crisis Safety Guide for journalists***

*You can access the full pdf versions of the guide:*

*(English – Portuguese – Spanish – Traditional Chinese – Simplified Chinese)*

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