

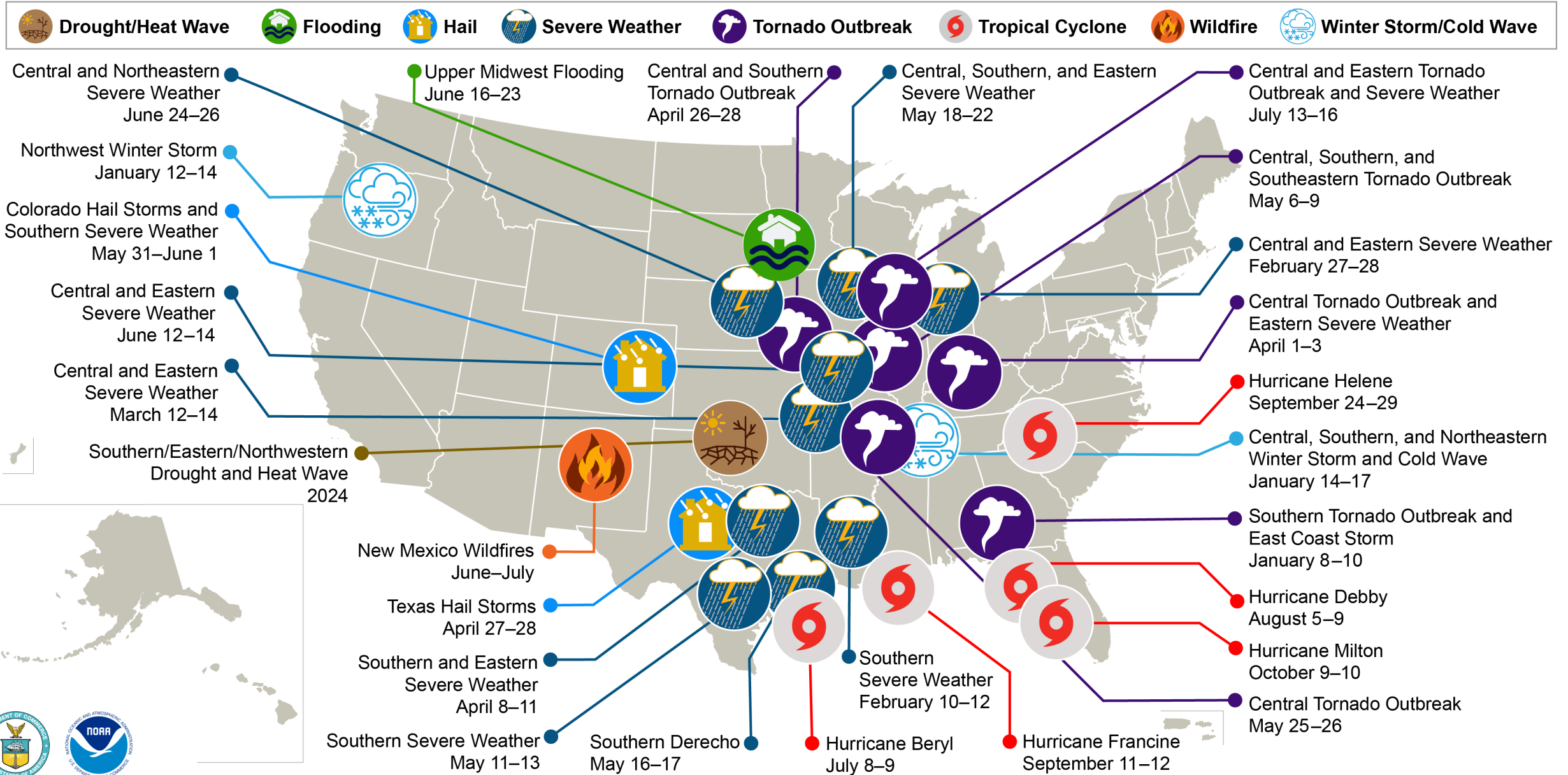
# **DISASTERS AND RECOVERY**

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# U.S. 2024 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



This map denotes the approximate location for each of the **27 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States in 2024.**



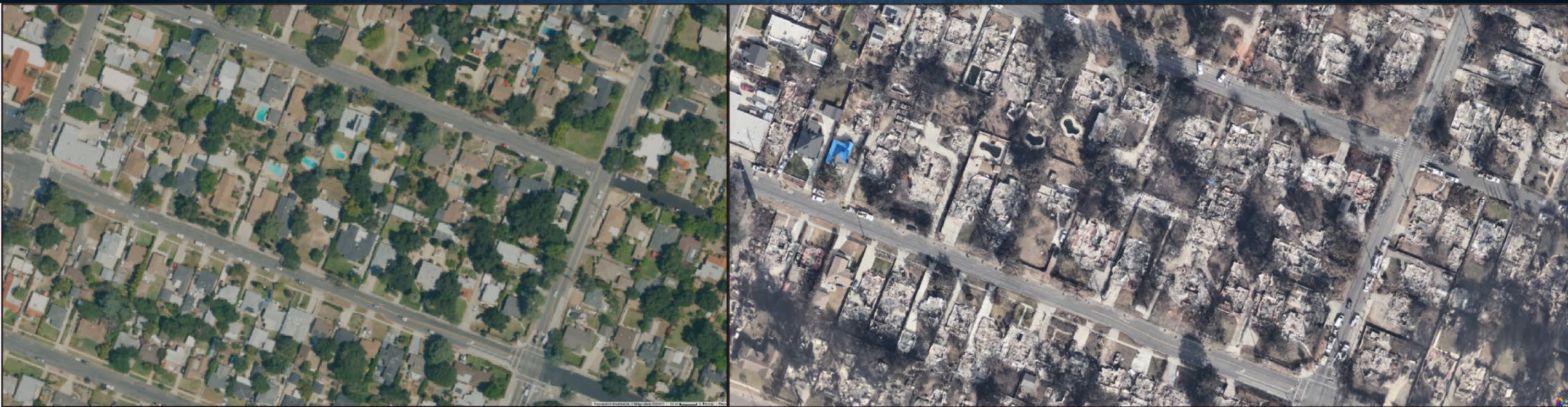
# GAO 2025 HIGH RISK LIST

- Recent disasters demonstrate the need for the federal government to take government-wide action to deliver assistance efficiently and effectively and reduce its fiscal exposure.
- Improving Processes for Assisting Survivors
- Reducing Fragmentation of the Federal Approach to Disaster Assistance
- Strengthening FEMA's Disaster Workforce and Capacity
- Investing in Resilience



# 2025 LA WILDFIRES

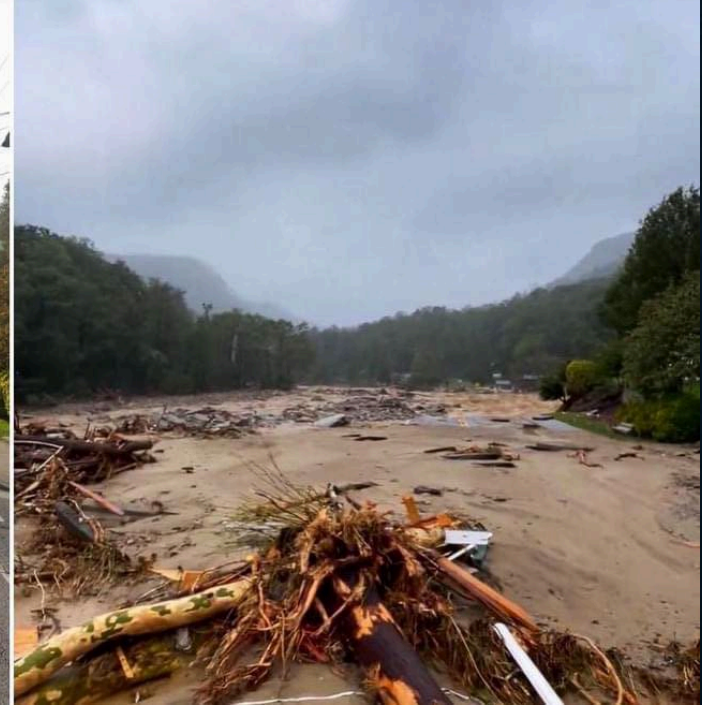
Satellite Imagery of Altadena, California Before and After 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. | GAO-25-108598



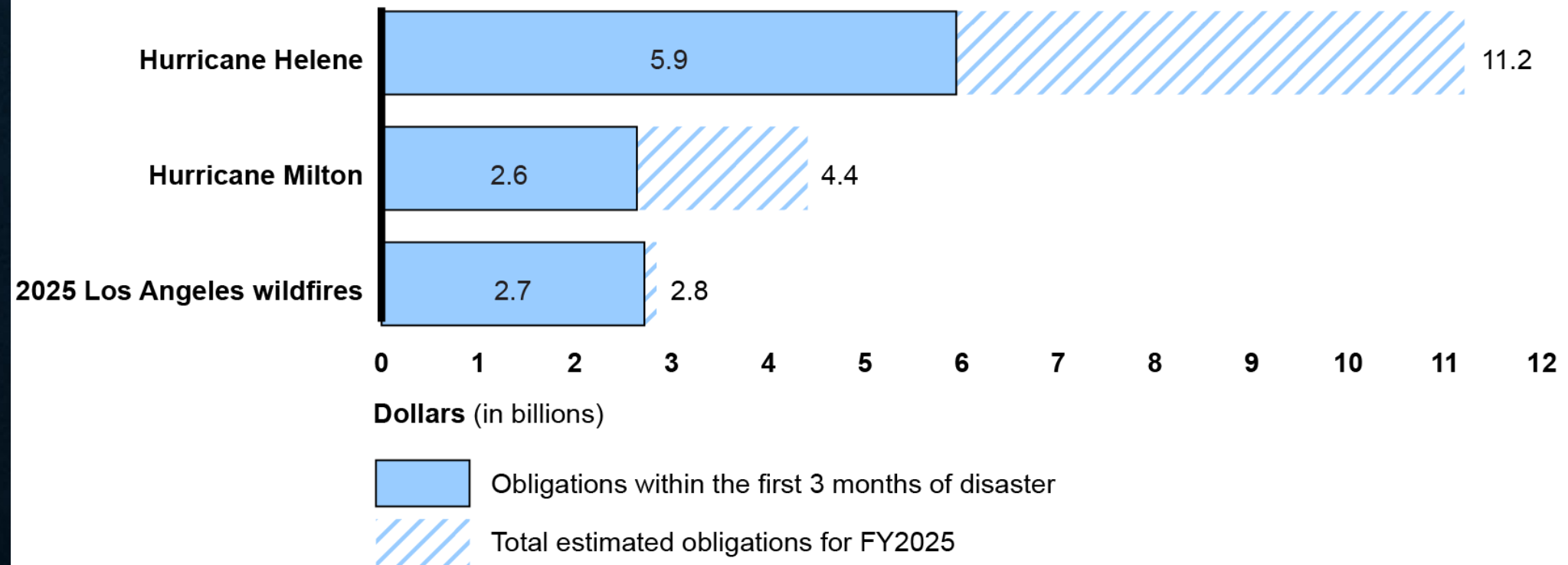
# HURRICANE HELENE 2024





# FEMA OBLIGATIONS IN THE FIRST 3 MONTHS AFTER HURRICANES HELENE AND MILTON AND THE 2025 LOS ANGELES WILDFIRES AND TOTAL ESTIMATED OBLIGATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025--\$11B+

## Disaster



Source: GAO summary of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) data. | GAO-25-108598

# OPEN DISASTERS

- FEMA is managing over 600 open major disaster declarations—some of which occurred almost 20 years ago, according to the agency.
- 102--disasters have been declared in 2025 (January through August)
- 164--disasters declared yearly on average (2020–2024)



# NATIONAL RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

National  
Disaster  
Recovery  
Framework  
2024 Third  
Edition—  
issued  
12/24



**Figure 3: Community-Driven Recovery**

Community-Driven Recovery depicts local communities at the center of any disaster recovery. Federal and non-federal partners organize their support around community needs.



# RECOVERY KEY PRACTICES

- Develop a practical framework for recovery, just as in response.
- Incorporate recovery into exercises. Develop challenging scenarios and close the gaps!
- Bring in the right people: Budget, legal, administrative staff will manage recovery. (Not just emergency managers)

# RECOVERY KEY PRACTICES

- Advance contracts are key to avoid waste: debris removal; commodities; housing.
- Contract and procurement flexibilities to meet recovery needs.
- Procedures and controls for disaster spending and recordkeeping. Once a disaster hits its too late to do this.