

EHS ALLIANCE SERVICES

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Climate change and its implications

Written by EHS Team

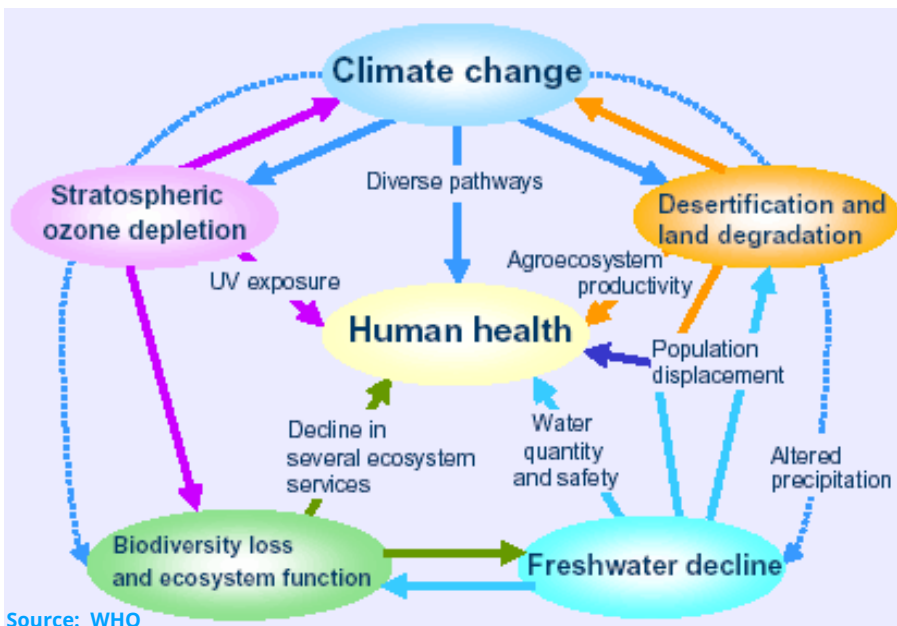
Climate change is one of the most important global environmental challenges, with implications for food production, water supply, health, energy, etc. Addressing climate change requires a good scientific understanding as well as coordinated action at national and global level. This paper addresses these challenges.

Historically, the responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions' increase lies largely with the industrialized world, though the developing countries are likely to be the source of an increasing proportion of future emissions. The projected climate change under various scenarios is likely to have implications on food production, water supply, coastal settlements, forest ecosystems, health, energy security, etc.

The adaptive capacity of communities likely to be impacted by climate change is low in developing countries. The efforts made by the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol provisions are clearly inadequate to address the climate change challenge. The most effective way to address climate change is to adopt a sustainable development pathway by shifting to environmentally sustainable technologies and promotion of energy efficiency, renewable energy, forest conservation, reforestation, water conservation, etc. The issue of highest importance to developing countries is reducing the vulnerability of their natural and socio-economic systems to the projected climate change. India and other developing countries will face the challenge of promoting mitigation and adaptation strategies, bearing the cost of such an effort, and its implications for economic development.

HUMAN HEALTH

Climate change is already impacting human health. Changes in weather and climate patterns can put lives at risk. Heat is one of the most deadly weather phenomena. As ocean temperatures rise, hurricanes are getting stronger and wetter, which can cause direct and indirect deaths. Dry conditions lead to more wildfires, which bring many health risks. Higher incidences of flooding can lead to the spread of waterborne diseases, injuries, and chemical hazards. As geographic ranges of mosquitoes and ticks expand, they can carry diseases to new locations.



The most vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, people with pre-existing health conditions, outdoor workers, people of colour, and people with low income, are at an even higher risk because of the compounding factors from climate change. But public health groups can work with local communities to help people understand and build resilience to climate change health impacts.



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Construction Safety Management Systems

Written by EHS Team

The construction industry experiences high injury and fatality rates and is far from achieving a zero-injury goal. Thus, effective safety management systems are critical to ongoing efforts to improve safety.

An appropriate definition of safety management systems is required, and the elements included in a safety management system should be identified to be used by practitioners to improve safety. A variety of safety management systems have been introduced by researchers and organizations. Most have been developed based on the root causes of injuries and fatalities within organizations. This review paper gives an overview of different safety management systems in various fields to identify the similarities and differences in these systems.

The aim of this review is to demonstrate the state-of-the art research on a variety of safety management systems and related methods of measurement. This paper also provides background studies of developing safety management systems. The primary contribution of this review to the body of knowledge is providing insights into existing safety management systems and their critical elements with appropriate methods of safety performance measurement, which can enable owners, contractors, and decision makers to choose and implement elements.

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