



Extreme Heat & High-Risk Human Behavior

July 2026 was the hottest month ever recorded in the United States, while Europe battled relentless heat waves and wildfires throughout the summer. Like the rest of our bodies, our brains have an ideal temperature for optimal functioning. The neurological link between high temperatures and decision-making is direct: the same brain regions that are involved in thermoregulation also govern emotional control. This physiological strain of extreme heat degrades cognitive processing, impairs memory and situational awareness, and exacerbates underlying mental health vulnerabilities. Extreme heat skews risk perception—heighting impulsivity, fueling aggression, and diminishing conflict-resolution capacity.

Extreme heat is no longer a seasonal anomaly; it is a compounding environmental risk factor. For emergency management, public health and public safety professionals, accounting for heat-induced cognitive degradation and behavioral volatility in emergency planning, risk assessments, and preparedness exercises has become an essential element in the operational environment. Get up to speed with the timely, dynamic program!

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 | 1:00-2:00 pm EDT

Registration is required at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Hn0U4KGIR4mEICSHXt_68A

About the Instructor

Steve Crimando, MA, is the founder and principal of Behavioral Science Applications LLC. He is an emergency and disaster behavioral health clinician, educator and responder with four decades of frontline experience. Steve serves on the disaster mental health committee for the Climate Psychology Alliance of North America, and the New Jersey Interagency Council on Climate Resilience. He is an instructor for the U.S. Department of State-Foreign Service Institute-Climate Diplomacy program and a consultant to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Technical Assistance Center regarding climate change and disaster behavioral health.

Steve has written and published extensively on the relationship between climate change, extreme heat and behavioral health. He is the coauthor of [*“Climate-Informed Disaster Behavioral Health Response: A Guide for a Climate-Informed Interprofessional Collaborative Behavioral Health Response to Today’s Disasters”*](#) (Wiley, 2027).