

Hi my name is Catie. I am one of millions of Americans who have invisible disabilities. I have a condition called Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome. The climate crisis has effected me and millions of others with this condition so much in the recent years. This summer has been the hottest on record. I recently within the last few weeks had to go to the emergency room due to the extreme heat. My heart rate became high and would not go back down no matter what I did. These extreme temperatures that continue to rise are causing POTS patients such as myself frequent emergency room trips, due to passing out more frequently than normal. For me I have extreme fatigue when my body overheats. I also break down in tears which does not help. We are in peak hurricane season, the storms are getting closer to the east coast and getting stronger. My first hurricane was hurricane Sandy and it was actually really scary not only because I am disabled but because we had my grandma living with us who was disabled and relied on oxygen which meant we needed power. My hope is that humanity will work together to protect this beautiful planet. I hope that our leaders will consider thinking about the disabled community as well as our efforts to combat climate change. Disabled voices deserve to be heard. Thank you so much for hearing my story.