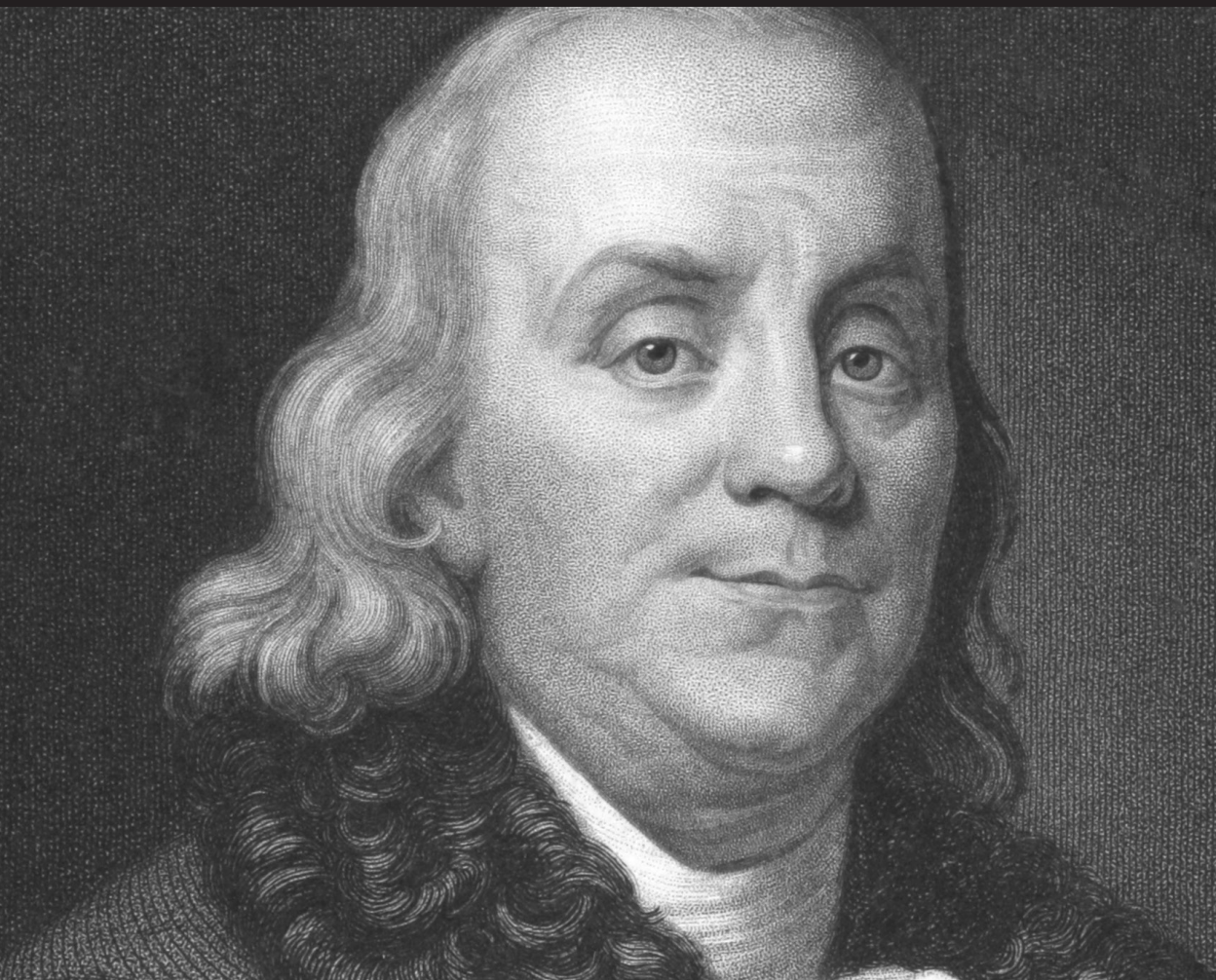


# Want to reduce the costs of natural disasters?



**Remember the advice of America's most famous firefighter.**

*"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."*

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, there have been 151 major natural disasters in the United States that exceed \$1 billion of economic losses between 1980 and 2013. The cumulative cost of these weather-related catastrophes is \$1 trillion.

Policymakers looking to reduce the taxpayer costs of natural disasters should remember Ben Franklin's timeless words. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Strong building codes are a preventative measure that can help save lives, protect property and reduce taxpayer exposure to natural disasters. The Safe Building Code Incentive Act is a bipartisan bill that encourages states to adopt strong building codes by providing additional disaster relief assistance to those that do. Firefighters, emergency management experts and insurers all agree. This legislation will help mitigate the costs of natural disasters.

**On May 1, in conjunction with the kickoff of National Building Safety Month, the BuildStrong Coalition and the Congressional Fire Services Institute will host the second annual National Thought Leaders Forum: Building Codes for a Stronger and Safer America. The event will be held from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Room SVC 203-02, First St., SE, Washington, DC. For more information or to RSVP, contact [patrick.roberts@navigatorsglobal.com](mailto:patrick.roberts@navigatorsglobal.com).**

We know Mother Nature will strike again. Will we be better prepared next time? If Congress follows Ben Franklin's advice, we will be.

[www.buildstrongamerica.com](http://www.buildstrongamerica.com)

