

Hurricanes Could Be Caused by Warm Weather

Read the story. Click the "LISTEN" button on the webpage. Try to read along with the narrator to practice your pronunciation. When you are finished, discuss the questions.

Scientists will look back and remember this year for having lots of hurricanes that were very strong. A group in charge of naming hurricanes is getting worried. They think that they might run out of names for the hurricanes if we have many more.

Category 4 and 5 hurricanes are very strong. There have been many more of these strong hurricanes over the last 35 years. The number of them has doubled. Some people think that this might be because of global warming. However, no one can prove the link global warming has with hurricanes. It will need to be studied for many more years.

One science professor said that there are other things that could create these extra hurricanes. He said that ocean temperatures going up could make hurricanes grow. Another thing that he talks about is weather cycles. He said that we are entering a cycle with more frequent hurricanes.

Most scientists agree that global warming does exist. Many also agree that burning fossil fuels have made it happen much faster. All scientists do not agree though on what is causing the most global warming. Some think that people are doing it. Others think that it is simply natural.

(This was adapted from an original story provided by News10 KXTV Sacramento.)

Questions:

1. Do you believe that hurricanes are caused by warm weather?
2. What can be done to predict hurricanes?
3. What should people do to reduce the number of hurricanes in the midwest of North America?
4. What kinds of other natural disasters are caused by global warming in your view?
5. What can people do to change the trend of global warming?