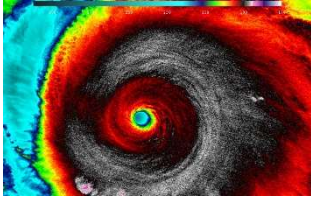


Climate change means category 6 hurricane needed

15th February 2024

Easier



Weather experts are calling for a new, stronger category for hurricanes. They say this is because climate change is causing more powerful storms. Scientists in the USA want to extend the current scale used to measure hurricanes. This scale ranks storms from 1 to 5. A category five is currently the strongest. This is when winds reach 252 kph. The meteorologists say a new category of 6 is needed for winds of over 309 kph. Their studies show that in the past decade, there have been five hurricanes and typhoons that would have been a category 6. Hurricanes and typhoons are the same weather phenomenon. The former start in the Atlantic Ocean, while the latter occur in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.

Meteorologist Dr James Kossin said it would take a long time for a new category 6 to be accepted. It would need the USA's National Hurricane Center to start researching more intense storms. Dr Kossin hopes to, "inform broader discussions about how to better communicate risk in a warming world". He said "significantly increasing" temperatures are caused by greenhouse gas emissions. This increase in emissions is heating oceans, which gives the water extra energy. This makes hurricanes more powerful, with much higher wind speeds. He believes there will be a greater number of "superstorms" in the future. He said: "These storms keep getting stronger as the climate changes."

Sources: theguardian.com / usatoday.com / newscientist.com/breakingnewsenglish.com

DISCUSS

"We need to prepare more for stronger extreme weather events." Do you agree or disagree? Why (not)?

True / False

- 1) Experts say we need a new hurricane scale because of climate change. T / F
- 2) A category 1 is currently the strongest storm. T / F
- 3) A category 6 is needed for winds above 309 kph. T / F
- 4) The article says typhoons and hurricanes are very different. T / F
- 5) The new category 6 could be introduced very soon. T / F
- 6) Warmer oceans are leading to stronger winds. T / F
- 7) A meteorologist believes there'll be more super-storms in the future. T / F
- 8) The meteorologist said climate change will eventually weaken storms. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in bold are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. experts | a. identical |
| 2. current | b. discharges |
| 3. decade | c. happen |
| 4. same | d. weather patterns |
| 5. occur | e. 10 years |
| 6. meteorologist | f. specialists |
| 7. intense | g. additional |
| 8. emissions | h. weather forecaster |
| 9. extra | i. present |
| 10. climate | j. powerful |

DISCUSS MORE

- 1) What worries you most about climate change?
- 2) What are your experiences of storms and strong winds?
- 3) What is your country doing to help fight climate change?
- 4) What do you know about hurricanes?
- 5) What's the best way to prepare for a hurricane?
- 6) What do you think of super-storms?
- 7) Why do some people say climate change isn't real?
- 8) What changes in the weather have you noticed?
- 9) What are the differences between hurricanes, typhoons, and cyclones?
- 10) What questions would you like to ask meteorologists?

Emissions

**Which is the best way to cut emissions?
Rank these items from 1 (top) to 8 (bottom).**

- _ Hydrogen fuel cars
- _ Car pooling
- _ Turn off lights
- _ Don't use elevators
- _ No bottled water
- _ Buy local food
- _ Walk everywhere
- _ Recycle everything