

# ASK A CLIMATE SCIENTIST



1  
00:00:12,190 --> 00:00:04,060

[music]

2  
00:00:12,210 --> 00:00:16,230

Extreme weather was more frequent in recent years

3  
00:00:16,250 --> 00:00:20,280

is it a sign that global warming is gaining pace and exceeding predictions?

4  
00:00:20,300 --> 00:00:24,330

Now, has extreme weather been more frequent

5  
00:00:24,350 --> 00:00:28,360

in recent years? The evidence is definitely to the contrary.

6  
00:00:28,380 --> 00:00:32,390

The United States has always had extreme weather. We look back on our

7  
00:00:32,410 --> 00:00:36,420

weather history. It's been punishing: floods, droughts

8  
00:00:36,440 --> 00:00:40,470

tornadoes, hurricanes, great forest fires –

9  
00:00:40,490 --> 00:00:44,530

Is global warming happening? No doubt about it.

10  
00:00:44,550 --> 00:00:48,590

We're living in a warmer world, we're living in a melting world, sea levels are rising.

11  
00:00:48,610 --> 00:00:52,630

Now, direct evidence of the footprint

12  
00:00:52,650 --> 00:00:56,670

or the fingerprint of global warming: we're seeing more frequent,

13  
00:00:56,690 --> 00:01:00,730

more intense, and longer lasting heat waves.

14

00:01:00,750 --> 00:01:04,750

As far as hurricanes, tornadoes,

15

00:01:04,770 --> 00:01:08,800

forest fires, floods, and drought, the evidence is definitely not in.

16

00:01:08,820 --> 00:01:12,830

The consensus among almost all scientists

17

00:01:12,850 --> 00:01:18,440

is that it's a small fingerprint, not a large footprint.

18

00:01:18,460 --> 00:01:20,890

But what is true is that

19

00:01:20,910 --> 00:01:24,940

in this country, in the United States, we live in many areas

20

00:01:24,960 --> 00:01:28,990

with great risk to drought, to tornadoes,

21

00:01:29,010 --> 00:01:33,060

to hurricanes, and so part of the dialogue is not only

22

00:01:33,080 --> 00:01:37,110

extreme weather and global warming,

23

00:01:37,130 --> 00:01:41,130

but is the amount of risk we can tolerate. Now looking to the future,

24

00:01:41,150 --> 00:01:45,160

global change, global warming –

25

00:01:45,180 --> 00:01:49,180

it definitely is accelerating and it will have an impact

