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Panel Discussion 6: Weather Reporting and Blogging; Social Media and their Influences on Public Policy



Narrative of the Polar Vortex Jan 2014

Social media (Twitter) discussion began in late-Dec 2013.

Andrew Freedman Jan 2, comments via Twitter DM Pole Came to Ohio"
Carson Walker Jan 3, 2014 is about to blast frigid air *Drudge Report Headline
Jason Samenow Jan 3, 20 dangerous cold snap is at



Frigid air from the North Pole: What's this polar vortex?

If you get caught up in one, what should you do?

Again, it's not a "storm" that you get caught in. But when faced with significant cold temperatures, you should stay inside whenever possible, wear clothing if you must be outside, winterize your home and car, etc.

Is it a side effect of global warming and should we expect more events like this?

This is a not-yet-researched topic. In short, yes, it could be. It seems counterintuitive that global warming could cause significant cold snaps like this one, but some research shows that it could. We know that different types of extreme weather can result from the overall warming of the planet, melting of the Arctic Sea ice, etc. This includes extreme droughts of the jet stream, which can cause heat waves in summer and cold snaps in winter.



Loft Creates "Polar Vortex" to Make You Think Winter is Caused by Global Warming

Loft City makes one generally... (text partially obscured)



Polar vortex deniers are wrong: Here's why...

More than half of a... (text partially obscured)

They say... (text partially obscured)

They say... (text partially obscured)

In my view, discussing the polar vortex's significant role in mid-latitude cold air outbreaks is a great way to engage the public in the intriguing dynamics of meteorology. Some critics are being too liberal about his definition and/or burying their heads in the sand, blaming themselves from a factoring weather reality.

If I have a meteorologist call this a polar vortex, I suggest... (text partially obscured)

Polar vortex: "Banished" for overuse, misuse and uselessness by University

The polar vortex not only annoyed the millions it blasted with bitter cold in 2014, but also – apparently – language purists who objected at the way it was used.

For the New Year, Lake Superior State University (LSSU) has elected to "banish" polar vortex "from the Queen's English" among 11 other words and phrases.

Since 1975-1976, LSSU has compiled an annual list of the English words and phrases that it maintains should be dispensed with for "over-use, mis-use, and general uselessness". It awards nominations and receives thousands of candidates.



Narrative of Weather Model Wars

ECMWF, US Navy & Air Force, NOAA/NCEP/EMC, UK MetOffice, Private Industry



Weather forecasts always have an element of uncertainty, associated with imperfect knowledge of the initial conditions (the state of the atmosphere at the starting time of the forecast) and the approximations in the computer simulation (model). Consequently, ECMWF uses an ensemble forecasting approach (ENS) to explicitly represent both sources of uncertainty. In contrast, any single realisation cannot capture the confidence level that should be placed in that outcome.

GFS v14.0.0 upgrade tentatively scheduled for June 20, 2017

ECMWF upgrade (Cycle 43r3) scheduled for June 20, 2017