

Weather and Tornadoes

Wow, what a spring this has been for tornado activity in this country. April 2011 may go down as the [most tornadoes ever for the month of April](#) with 625 confirmed and over 300 people died. Yikes, May and June on average see more tornadoes! I certainly hope that all your relatives and friends are alright. The news has been relentless. Here is a Fast Flip of the top articles:

<http://goo.gl/GLkYW>

If you would like to monitor the weather yourself the Internet is a great place to do research. NOAA or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at www.noaa.gov is a great place to start. NOAA's Storm Prediction Center www.spc.noaa.gov can help avoid a personal disaster. To learn more about tornadoes visit www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/ and to learn about tornado safety please read <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/#Safety>. NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams had a video of the April activity that is worth seeing. Click on this picture below to see the short video.



NBC Nightly News on April 2011 Tornadoes

The Bigger Picture and Climate Change

With all that we have just witnessed we have to ask ourselves if all this tornado activity is somehow tied to the larger debate about climate change? Climate

scientists always point out that the evidence of climate change is not the variations in our day to day weather changes. Scientists who study climate change look at indicators that are much more fundamental than daily changes in our weather. They are looking at things like [changes in the timing of spring activities](#), [how fast is the permafrost is receding](#) and of course what is happening to the [polar ice caps](#).



At the very least we can all stop and think about our daily activities and think about what we could do differently to help preserve our planet for future generations. [Time Magazine's Going Green](#) is a great place to start.

Backups

I've said it before and I will say it over and over, we all need backups. The earthquake and tsunami in Japan, tornadoes and forest fires here in the United States are reminders to all of us that we all need to do backups of our computers. **I recommend two kinds of backups:** 1.) backup your entire hard drive to an external hard drive in case of hard drive failure or other disaster and 2.) use an online backup service like [Carbonite](#) or [Mozy](#) for those really important documents and pictures, email messages and email addresses, etc.

With an online service if your computer and backup drive were both destroyed or stolen you would still be able to get back everything that is saved online.

Stay safe!

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