

CHOOSE ANY INTERNET THEN ADD PHONE + TV

JUST \$34.90 more a month

GET IT NOW (888) 250 3918

COMCAST BUSINESS B4B BUILT FOR BUSINESS™

Study Finds as World Warms, US Gets More Lightning

WASHINGTON — Nov 13, 2014, 3:23 PM ET
By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Like 7 6 5 +1 0 0 Comments



FILE - In this Sept. 11, 2013 file photo, lightning strikes north of Macworth Island in Portland, Maine. A new study says flashes of lightning in the US will likely increase by nearly 50 percent by the end of the century because of global warming.... [View Full Caption](#)
The Associated Press



Lightning strikes in the United States will likely increase by nearly 50 percent by the end of the century as the world gets warmer and wetter, a new study says.

While those conditions were already known to promote thunderstorms in general, the new work focused on lightning strikes themselves.

Researchers calculated just how much lightning flashes increase as air warms, clouds fill with more energy from water vapor and rainfall intensifies.

They concluded that for every degree Fahrenheit the world warms in the future, lightning strikes will go up nearly 7 percent. That's 12 percent for every degree Celsius.

Because scientists forecast that the world may get about 7 degrees warmer (4 degrees Celsius) by the end of the century, based on current carbon dioxide emission trends, that comes to a 50 percent increase in lightning strikes, said David Romps. He's the atmospheric scientist at the University of California Berkeley who led the study.






"When you used to have two lightning strikes, now you'll have three," Romps said. "It's a substantial increase."

The researchers based their calculation on 2011 weather data from across the U.S. They presented their results in a paper released Thursday by the journal Science.

Romps said the key is that warmer air holds more water vapor. Water vapor is fuel for thunderstorms, sparking more lightning. The energy that storms get from vapor is the biggest driver in increasing lightning strikes in the future, Romps said.

The new study shows that at any given level of rainfall intensity, there will be more lightning in the future.

HOT RIGHT NOW

-  **Kim Kardashian Leaves Little to Imagination in Racy Magazine...**
-  **Why Kim Kardashian Decided to Show Full-Frontal Nudity**
-  **Door Falls Off Bono's Learjet During Flight**
-  **Meet the Men Having Sex With Strangers to Help Them Have...**
-  **Buddy Valastro to Cops: 'You Can't Arrest Me! I'm the Cake...'**





CHOOSE ANY INTERNET THEN ADD PHONE + TV

JUST \$34.90 more a month

GET IT NOW (888) 250 3918

COMCAST BUSINESS B4B BUILT FOR BUSINESS™

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...

-  **Prince William Jokes About Using**
-  **Ferguson Braces for Grand Jury's Michael**
-  **New Details Emerge on Thwarted Utah**
-  **Little Known Secret To Putting In Solar**

Harold Brooks, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration severe storm meteorologist, said the study makes sense and marks an advance over previous work.

The result is important mostly because it means more natural sparks for dangerous wildfires, which are already forecast to worsen with man-made warming, Romps, Brooks and other meteorologists said.

Lightning deaths have been falling from about 100 per year in the 1960s and 1970s to 33 per year in the last decade. So far this year 25 people have been killed, NOAA data shows. Brooks said the drop is because of people changing their behavior to be safer in storms and better medical treatment of lightning victims.

The top states for lightning deaths in the past decade are Florida, Texas, Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina and New Jersey. About 80 percent of lightning victims are male.

Michael Mann, a Pennsylvania State University climate scientist, said this study "is yet another reminder that there are likely some unwelcome surprises in store ... when it comes to the impacts of climate change."

Online:

Journal Science: <http://www.sciencemag.org>

NOAA's lightning safety page: <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/index.htm>

Seth Borenstein can be followed at <http://twitter.com/borenbears>

Like { 7

{ 6

5 { g+1 { 0

0 Comments

FROM AROUND THE WEB



The Mysterious Disappearance of the Oil Tanker Off the Coast of Texas (Bloomberg)



Thinking of Putting in Solar Panels? Read This First (PV Solar Report)

MORE FROM ABC NEWS



Mystery of McStay Family's Disappearance Ends With Arrest Today



Take a Tour of Naypyidaw, Myanmar's Ghost Town Capital City

Dell Global Tech Adoption Index Reveals Truths about Big Data (Dell Tech Page One)

Why are so many Koreans named Kim? (The Economist)

22 Things You Should Never Do Again After 50 (AARP)

9 Big Holes That Aren't the Grand Canyon (AARP)

X-Planes: The world's fastest jets (CNET)

Eric Frein Lookalike Gets Car from Online Donations

Incredible Look Inside Huge Crater at 'End of the World'

'Dancing With the Stars' 2014: Actress Lea Thompson Hangs Up Her Dancing Shoes in Week 9

Veterans Day 2014: Touching Photo, Video Show Paraplegic Veteran Dancing With Wife at Wedding

Live Updates: Rosetta Spacecraft's Probe Lands on Comet

Recommended by

ADS BY ADBLADE

OFFERS YOU MIGHT LIKE

The God Vitamin

Cornell Scientist Discovers a New Vitamin That Could Make People Live Forever.

[More >>](#)

Obama's Refi Program

If you owe less than \$625,000 on your home, use Obama's Refi Program to save up to \$3,000/Yr.

[More >>](#)

Wells Fargo Advisors Estate Planning Kit

Download a free toolkit and understand the essentials of planning your estate.

[More >>](#)

PHOTO GALLERIES

View: **Artist Merges LEGO Figures, And It's Awesome**
Entertainment

● ● ● ● ●

SEE IT, SHARE IT

Married Attorneys Charged With Stabbing Ex-Boss

Fairfax County Police Department

Philadelphia Kidnapping Victim Says She Befriended Abductor

Philadelphia Police Department/AP Photo

World's Tallest Man Meets the World's Smallest

Luke MacGregor/Reuters

Vegan Mom Accused of Child Neglect Regains Custody of Infant

Mark OMara Law Group

Sky-High Sand Castle Looking Up at World Record

Yasuyoshi Chiba/AFP/Getty Images

Why Richard Simmons Hasn't Been Seen in Months

Ray Tamarra/Getty Images

Eric Frein 'Mom and Dad' Letter Brings More Terrorism Charges

Michael J. Mullen/The Scranton Times-Tribune/AP Photo