

Weather 101



By: "Doppler" Dave Speelman

Meteorology and Climatology. Is there a Difference?

I was asked by a Spotlight reader the difference between meteorology and climatology? I get this same question from some of the various middle and high school students that I talk to from time to time.

When we talk about meteorology, we are talking about the chemistry and physics of the how the atmosphere works and evolves. It is the study and science of weather – and how to

determine what will happen over a short time period.

Climatology looks at weather that occurred over lengthy periods of time. It's a study of precipitation, temperatures and other weather variables over long time segments. It's like explaining to someone what the weather is typically like in El Paso for the summer or fall.

The main difference to remember is that climatology is weather over time; weather that can cover months, years or decades. Weather is changes in the atmosphere in the short term. It's what will be happening in the next minutes, hours and days – not to exceed a long period of time. So, weather is the forecast you see from our ABC-7 weathercast every day and night – next 7 days or so.

Weather Trivia:

When do we typically see our first freeze of the season?



PICTURE FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY

- A. October 28
- B. November 5
- C. November 13
- D. December 2



Answer: C (last year we hit first freeze Nov. 23)

"Doppler" Dave Speelman is the chief meteorologist at KVIATV in El Paso. You can watch his forecasts at 4, 5, 6 and 10 pm on ABC-7 (channel 6 cable). If you would like Doppler Dave to address (explain) any weather issues you can email him at Dopplerdave@kvia.com.

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