

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Extreme Weather

By Christopher K. Passante and Julie Bologna

While some people chase it, others hide from it. Julie Bologna reports on it.

I don't know if it is ironic or just plain appropriate that the winter's first "Arctic Blast" is whipping against my window as I interview CBS 11 meteorologist Julie Bologna on the phone. Bologna, who recently coauthored a book with Christopher K. Passante titled, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Extreme Weather*, says, "This is nothing. I'm used to windchills of 40 degrees below." Obviously, Bologna is not from here!

She is, in fact, from Pittsburgh, PA. For the last three years, she and her husband, and new baby boy, have lived in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. "I really like it here. Everything you want is in Plano and Frisco," Bologna says, "and I love the weather. I don't miss the cold weather in Pittsburgh, even though you're interviewing me on a day when we have our coldest weather!"

Bologna has earned two Emmy awards for Outstanding Weathercaster. She landed her first job as a fill-in weathercaster at a small station in Ohio. "I didn't have any weather background, but I ended up loving it and going back to school for it," she says.

Bologna attended Pennsylvania State University earning a bachelor of arts in communications with a major in journalism. She received her Certificate of Broadcast Meteorology from

Mississippi State University and earned the Seals of Approval from the National Weather Association and the American Meteorological Society.

"From that point on I made weather my full-time job and never looked back," she says, and she launched her first book with Passante last October.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Extreme Weather is organized into five parts:



Since moving to Texas, Pittsburgh native Julie Bologna says she doesn't miss the weather.

Part I, "Extreme Weather All Around Us," explains what extreme weather is and what causes it; Part II, "The Answer is Blowing in the Wind," covers wind-driven storms like tornadoes – *Did you know that winds inside an F5 tornado can reach a dizzying 318 mph?*

Part III, "A Reason for the Freezin'," focuses on snow, ice, and blizzards; Part IV, "Keeping Your Head above Water," looks into torrential rains and floods; and Part V, "The Heat is On," sheds light on heat waves and humidity.

Three appendixes comprise a glossary; storm names and record

weather extremes, including the top 25 deadliest hurricanes (Katrina ranked 3rd with 1,400 deaths); and sources for further reading.

"This is a really exciting opportunity for me to talk about what I've learned over the years and what I continue to learn. When you see a TV forecast it's two or three minutes. You don't get a chance to talk about those subjects

that are in the book like dust storms or global warming."

Global warming is a rise in temperature in the earth's atmosphere, which causes climatic change. Some people blame global warming on human activity; others say it's natural causes. "I believe it's a little bit of both," says Bologna. "Yes, human activity is contributing to some problems with the atmosphere. At the same time though, about every 20 to 30 years, the earth's cycle

changes, and it's a natural occurrence. I'm torn on the whole subject."

As the interview comes to a close, I ask Bologna if she's ever been caught in extreme weather. "Yes, back in 1999, I was sent to cover Hurricane Floyd, which hit the Carolinas. I was there with news crews and photographers who wanted to ride out the storm on the beach, and I was like, 'You're going to do that and I'm going to take the van back and stay in a hotel and be safe so I can live to see tomorrow!'" she laughs. "I have those stories how everyone is evacuating an area but you,

Photo/CBS 11

being the news crew, are going in. ... It can be quite dangerous.”

National Weather Service along with Collin County



Community College and the Collin County Amateur Radio Emergency Services is hosting a free skywarn training session on Saturday,

January 20 to prepare the community for extreme weather. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Extreme Weather* would make a valuable tool to take along.

Says Bologna, “I think the book is written in a way that is very clear and easy to understand. I’m hoping it will help some folks understand the weather that affects them, their city and the world.”

To get to know Julie Bologna more, visit www.cbs11tv.com. For information on the 2007 Skywarn training session, turn to page 11.

Excerpt from page 14 and page 57

Overall, Americans have seen a major increase in hurricanes from 1995 to 2005. An average of 7.7 hurricanes and 3.6 major hurricanes have occurred each year since 1995, compared to 5 hurricanes and 1.5 major hurricanes on average in the 25-year period from 1970 - 1994. The average number of named storms from 1995 - 2005 was 13, compared to 8.6 in the 25-year period preceding.

It's a funny thing, this naming of storms. We don't name tornadoes, blizzards, or mudslides. It would seem silly. But we do name our hurricanes. ...

The naming of hurricanes began during World War II when Army Air Corpsmen and Navy meteorologists named the storms after their girlfriends or wives. From 1950 to 1952, the U.S. government began naming the storms phonetically for clarity. A year later, the U.S. Weather Bureau began using female names, and in 1979 the National Weather Service began including male names.

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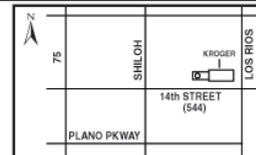
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