EXTREME WEATHER – STORM CHASERS!

Listen to the interview with Melissa, a storm chaser. Then, complete the conversation with the right verbs.

Interviewer: Welcome to another edition of Weather Watch.

Today I'm talking to professional storm chaser, Melissa Compton.

How did you first become interested in extreme weather, Melissa?

Melissa: I _____ in love with storms when I was a little girl. Where I lived in Florida, we _____ hurricanes every few years, not like now when you can have two or three major hurricanes every summer. I _____ to love the excitement of seeing everyone_____ _____ for the storms – _____ their homes and _____ emergency food from the supermarket.

Interviewer: Safeguarding their homes?

Melissa: Yes, making sure their homes were protected from any storm damage. People normally _____ the windows of their homes with storm shutters. People also _____ bags of sand at the bottom of the doors to stop any flood water from _____ their homes.

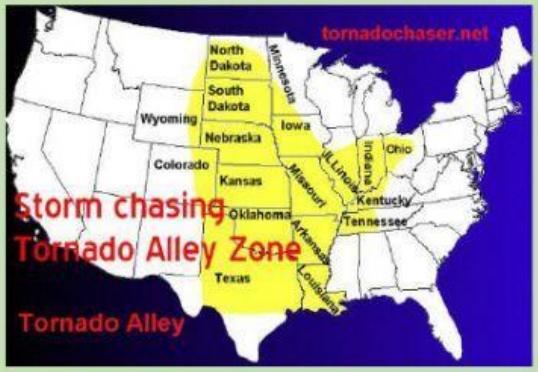
Interviewer: I understand. And can you tell us what a storm chaser is?

Melissa: Sure thing. It's someone who _____ storms, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and even snow storms like blizzards. I _____ them scientifically to help us understand more about them, but some people _____ storms for the thrill of it. You know ... because they like the excitement of chasing storms. Personally, I think this is a very dangerous thing to do. Storms can kill! Professional storm chasers have a lot of equipment and training.

What does Melissa think about amateur storm chasers?

_____

Listen the interview again, an answer some questions about Melissa and her profession.



Interviewer: How did you become a storm chaser?

Melissa: It was while I was at university. I was studying meteorology, which is the study of weather, and part of the course was all about storms. We visited Tornado Alley ...

Interviewer: Can you tell us where Tornado Alley is?

Melissa: Sorry, yes. It's a part of the United States where tornados are most frequent. So, think of the states of Texas, Kansas, Florida, Colorado ... places like that. So, we went to Tornado Alley for ten days and saw so many tornadoes. I think it was almost one every day.

After this, I loved storms even more and knew that I wanted to become a storm chaser.

Interviewer: What's the worst storm you've ever seen?

Melissa: I think that has to be the Tri-State Tornado of a couple of years back. This storm started in northern Texas and moved on to Oklahoma and then Kansas. I started chasing it when the tornado began and I followed it for 380 kilometres before it died down. That was a pretty cool storm, but it was very scary and it caused a lot of damage – it was hundreds of millions of dollars and lots of people had to be evacuated from their homes.

Interviewer: Do you chase more storms now than you did in the past?

Melissa: Yes, I do. Not so much with tornadoes, but definitely with hurricanes. Every year now they seem to be getting more and more frequent. And stronger. And many more are making landfall.

Interviewer: Landfall? What's that?

Melissa: Well, hurricanes are born in the ocean. Landfall is when they arrive on the land.

Interviewer: Thank you, Melissa. It's been a pleasure talking to you.

Let's check comprehension! Can you answer the following questions?

1- What was Melissa doing when she decided to become a storm chaser?

_____

2- What is the" Tornado Alley"?

_____

3- What states are part of this "alley"?

_____

4- How did Melissa feel about the Tri-State tornado?

_____

5- What is the meaning of "landfall"?

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