

# CLIMATE FACT CHECK: NOVEMBER 2025 EDITION

Climate change NOT making hurricanes or wildfires worse - Calif. Wildfires caused by arson - Atlantic Ocean's "conveyor belt" is NOT on the verge of collapse - Fossil fuels saving lives

## November 3rd: No, Climate Change Did Not Make Hurricane Melissa worse

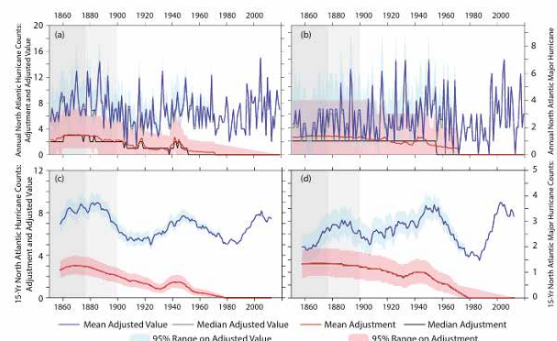


**Claim:** Paul Gross, a meteorologist at WDIV-TV Channel 4, the NBC affiliate station in Detroit, Michigan, [wrote an op-ed](#) in the *Detroit Free Press* opining that Hurricane Melissa was made "stronger, faster and more destructive" by human-caused global warming.

**Fact-Check:** When [hurricane counts are adjusted](#) for "missing storms" in the pre-satellite era there is no century-scale trend. What's more, there is [no correlation](#) between Caribbean sea surface temperature anomaly and tropical cyclone strength, because the oceans have always been warm enough during the late summer and autumn to sustain a hurricane of category five strength. Melissa's landfall intensity wasn't unprecedented, as Gross claims. It was on par with the 1935 "Labor Day" hurricane that struck the Florida Keys and Jamaica has had far more damaging hurricanes, including Gilbert in 1988 and an unnamed hurricane in 1722 which claimed more than 400 lives

ARTICLE

NATURE COMMUNICATIONS | <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-24268-5>



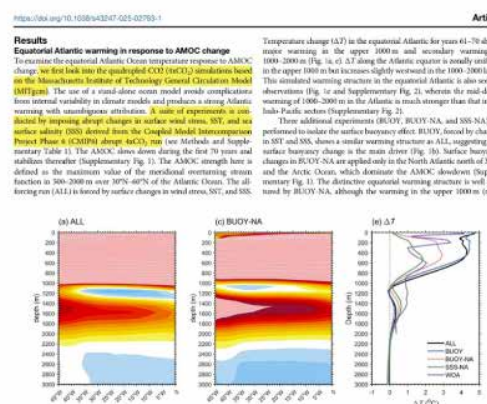
**Fig. 2 North Atlantic missing storm adjustment and adjusted basin-wide hurricane and major hurricane frequency.** Top panels **a, b** show adjusted values for each year 1851–2019; bottom panels **c, d** show the values for the 15-year centered average of basin-wide frequency; the frequency of North Atlantic (NA) hurricanes is shown on the left and of NA major hurricanes on the right. In each panel, the red thick line shows the mean estimate of the missing storm adjustment, thick black line shows the median estimate, and the pink shading shows the 95% range on the adjustment based on a bootstrap resampling of the adjustments; thick blue line shows the mean estimate on basin-wide frequency (sum of frequency recorded in version 2 of the North Atlantic Hurricane Database, HURDAT2, ref. <sup>33</sup>, and the adjustment developed in this study), thin black line shows the median estimate of the adjusted frequency, the sky-blue shading shows the 95% range on the adjusted value based on a bootstrap resampling of the adjustments. In the bottom panels **c, d** a dotted gray line shows the 15-year centered average of the recorded HURDAT2 counts (see also in Fig. 1c, d). Gray background shading is as in Fig. 1, and highlights times where we have reduced confidence in the frequency estimates even after adjusting for likely missing storms.

## October 27th: No, the Atlantic Ocean's "conveyor belt" is not on the verge of collapse



**Claim:** Citing a [research paper](#) published in *Communications Earth & Environment*, in late October [flurry](#) of [headlines](#) claimed the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) has weakened since 1960, and that a collapse is likely this century. The authors asserted that a "mid-depth warming" 1,000-2,000 meters down in the equatorial Atlantic, was a "fingerprint" of an AMOC slowdown caused by greenhouse gas-induced Greenland ice sheet freshwater melt flux.

**Fact-Check:** The authors' approach is fundamentally flawed running carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations four times higher than the pre-industrial level of ~280 parts per million (ppm) through the CMIP6 models to get this result. Because fossil fuel reserves are finite and carbon sinks remove about half of mankind's emissions, there isn't enough coal, natural gas or oil in existence to get the CO<sub>2</sub> level anywhere near 1,120 ppm. Moreover, multiple other recent peer-reviewed studies find that the AMOC has either [remained about the same](#) or has slightly [increased in speed](#). No real world data suggests that the AMOC is about to collapse.

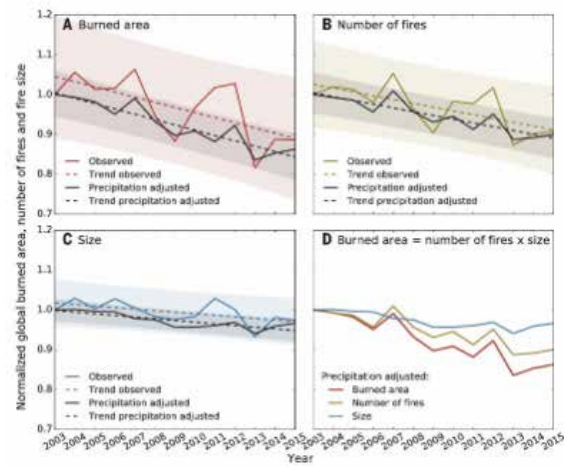
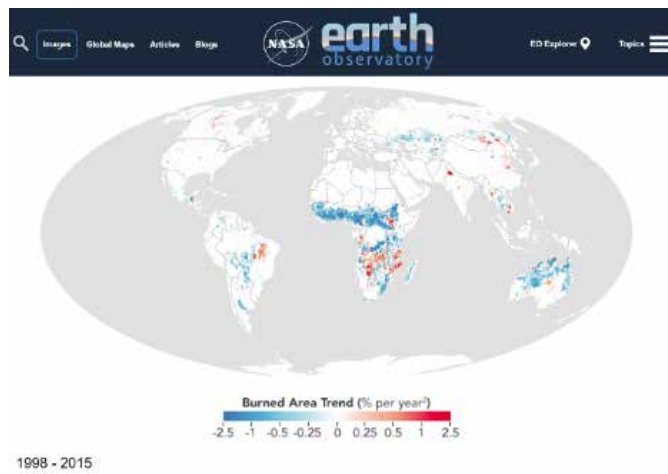


## November 6th: Wrong, SPACE.com, wildfires are not becoming more frequent or intense



**Claim:** SPACE.com [ran a story](#) claiming that the 2024-25 wildfires are evidence that climate change has made fires larger and more severe. They state, "A sweeping new analysis, the [State of Wildfires 2024-25](#) report, finds that human-driven global warming dramatically increased the intensity and scale of wildfires across the globe in some regions making severe fire seasons 25 to 35 times more likely than they would have been in a cooler world."

**Fact-Check:** This is false. Only long-term measurement and averaging of trends could indicate a pattern that might suggest climate change is making fires worse, and there are no such trends. In fact, NASA satellite data revealed a [25% decrease in fire burn area](#) between 1998 and 2015 and findings from recent papers published in [Science](#) and [Nature Communications](#) are confirm the decline.



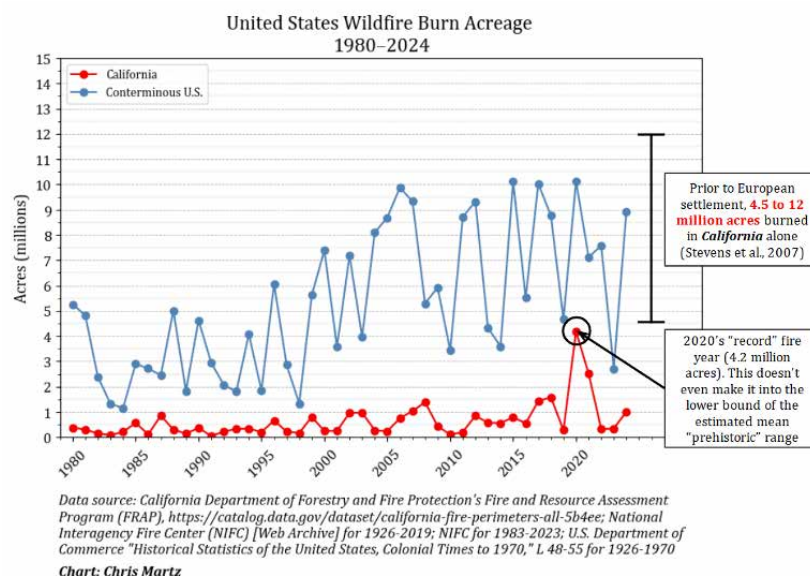
## November 13th: The Pacific Palisades Fire was caused by arson, not by climate change, Governor Newsom



**Claim:** At a February United Nations climate conference, COP30 in Belém, Brazil, California Governor Gavin Newsom [spoke to a panel](#) claiming that his state is “on the tip

of the spear when it comes to climate change.” Newsom asserted that homeowners cannot get their homes insured due to climate-fueled extreme weather, such as the extreme 100-mile-per-hour winds that stoked the Pacific Palisades Fire in January.

**Fact-Check:** Climate change had little, if anything, to do with the Palisades blaze. The fire itself was caused by the [rekindling of a previous arson-caused fire](#), and the extreme Santa Ana winds (SAWs) that caused it to spread. Recent California wildfire seasons, such as 2020’s “record-breaking” 4.2 million acres, pale in comparison to seasons that occurred [prior to European settlement](#) when 4.5-12 million acres burned per year, on average. The severity of the recent LA fire was NOT due to climate change, rather it [was a failure of the state government](#) interfering with firefighters efforts to completely extinguish an arson set fire, allow the fire to flare up again and spread, and poor water management leaving reservoirs dry.





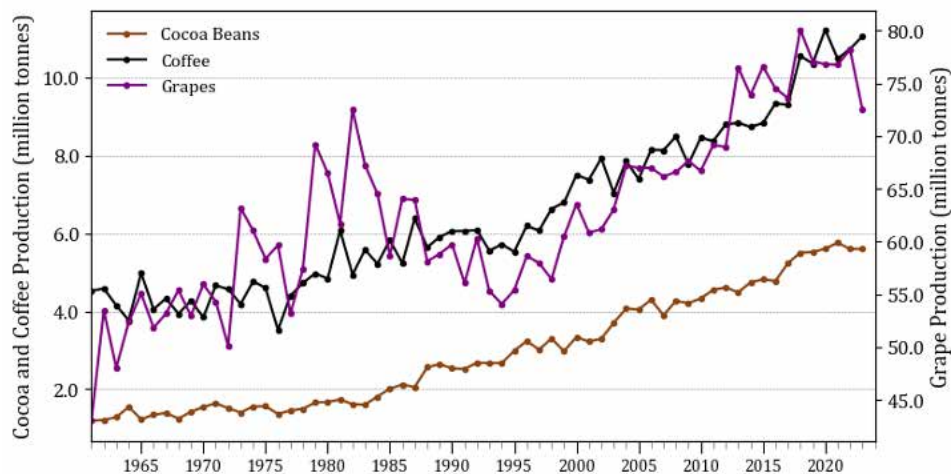
# November 14th: The Independent is Wrong – Coffee, Chocolate, and Wine Are Thriving



**Claim:** *The Independent's* recent article, "[Engineering climate may not be enough to save coffee, chocolate, and wine](#)," warns that even extreme geoengineering might not preserve "luxury crops" in a warming world. The study behind the article relied on simulations of stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI), a [highly controversial technique](#) that would spray reflective particles into the upper atmosphere to block sunlight, cooling the Earth. Researchers cited by the Independent concluded that while SAI might reduce global temperatures, it would not reliably protect coffee, cacao, or wine grapes from future climate shifts.

**Fact-Check:** What the article doesn't mention is that real-world crop data show that three crops supposedly in peril are actually thriving. According to the United Nations [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#), since 2000, global coffee yields have increased by 30%; cacao yields grew by 10%; and grape yields (some of which are used for winemaking) have risen by 25%. Coffee, cacao, and grapes are being boosted by the fertilizing effect of increasing atmospheric CO2 levels. There is no reason to believe this will change in the future or that expensive, potentially dangerous geo-engineering schemes are needed to save peoples' daily cups of java, their access to chocolate bars, or their glasses of wine with dinner.

Global Production of Cocoa Beans, Coffee, and Grapes  
1961–2023



Data source: FAOSTAT (2025), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,  
<https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QCL>

Chart: Chris Martz

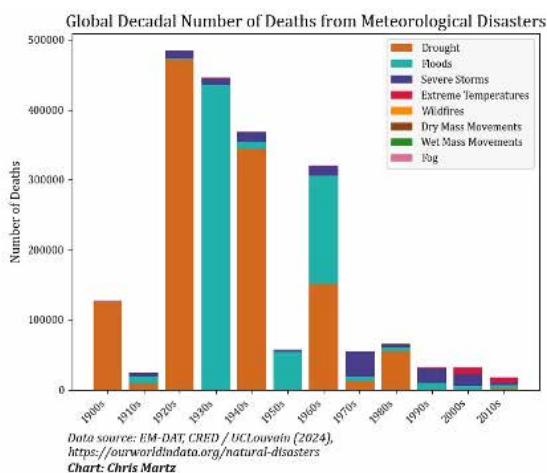
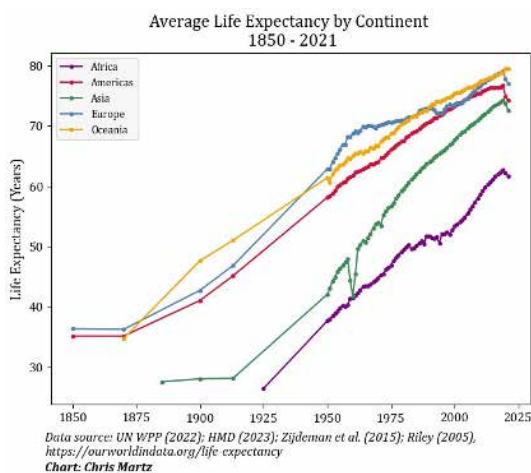
# November 14th: No, Al Jazeera, Fossil Fuels Are Not Killing Billions – They’re Saving Them



**Claim:** In *Al Jazeera's* article, "[World's 'fossil fuel obsession' threatens billions of lives: Amnesty](#)," reporter Jillian Kestler-D'Amours repeats *Amnesty International's* (AI)

claim that fossil fuels are an "existential threat" to billions of people. *Al Jazeera* quotes AI's Secretary General, Agnes Callamard, who declared "[T]he age of fossil fuels must end now" because fossil fuel usage is "endangering billions of lives."

**Fact-Check:** Far from threatening billions of lives, fossil fuels have saved billions of lives and made it possible to feed and house the world's eight billion people, a prospect unimaginable just a century ago. Average life expectancy has [more than doubled](#) on every continent since the 19th century; deaths from weather disasters have [fallen by 96.2%](#) since the 1920s despite global population increasing by six billion; and crop yields have been at [all-time highs](#) recently, driven in part by CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization.. There is simply no evidence that fossil fuels are endangering billions of lives.



**Until next month, enjoy these and other great climate fact checks at:**

**[ClimateRealism.com](#)**

- [An Ice Age May Come, New York Post, But If It Does, Ocean Current Collapse Won't Be the Cause](#)
- [Fake News: The BBC Pushes Reef Scare Again](#)
- [No, The Independent, Weather Disasters Do Not Threaten Survival in the U.K.](#)

**[ClimateDepot.com](#)**

- [ABC News: 'Climate change threatens to make running marathons even harder, research shows' – Races 'less likely to have ideal weather on race days by 2045 because of climate change'](#)
- [We're Saved! AP reports that 'Doctors dance to hip-hop at COP30 to demand a fossil fuel phase-out!'](#)
- [Axios: 'Your Thanksgiving turkey has a carbon footprint' – 'A four-ounce turkey serving is the equivalent of nearly three miles' worth of tailpipe emissions'](#)

**[Wattsupwiththat.com](#)**

- [Thankfulness for Climate and Energy Reality](#)
- [RIP Viv Forbes: Climate Warrior, Engineer, and Thorn in the Side of the Aussie Green Revolution](#)
- [IEA Publishes Climate Era's Obituary](#)