

How We Know It Is Right

A tornado is a wild, whirling wind. It forms a funnel-shaped cloud. It moves across the land in a narrow path. A tornado can cause great damage. It can destroy anything that gets in its way. Sometimes objects are transported, or moved, by a tornado. Objects are whirled around and carried through the air. They are dropped far from where they were picked up.

There is a world record for the longest tornado transport. The world record event took place on April 11, 1991. On that day, a personal check was transported 223 miles (357 km) by a tornado. The check was picked up in Stockton, Kansas. It was dropped in Winnetoon, Nebraska.

How do we know this record is correct? How do we know it is right? There is a man whose job it is to check it! The man's name is Randy Cerveny. Randy is a meteorologist. Meteorologists study the weather. They study weather patterns. They look at the changes in climate.

Randy's job is to check record claims. He is like a detective. He meets with the people who are making the claim. He looks at their records. He looks at their equipment. He asks them questions. He makes sure there are no mistakes. He makes sure the claims are correct.



How Sally Spotted the Swindle

Sally's aunt said, "I am going on vacation. I am going to Antarctica. I did not think I could afford to go to Antarctica. I did not think I had enough money. I thought I had to save for several more years. Traveling to Antarctica is very expensive. Then I found a great deal. As long as I pay cash today, I only have to pay 500 dollars! Most trips to Antarctica are several thousand dollars! Oh Sally, I am so excited. The tour guide says we will see penguins and polar bears. All my life, I have wanted to see penguins and polar bears. I can't wait!"

Sally said, "Aunt, there is not a trip to Antarctica. You are being swindled. Don't pay today. The tour guide is not honest."



Sally's aunt said, "How do you know that Sally? I am not being swindled. The tour guide is honest. He is not cheating me. He is very knowledgeable."

Sally said calmly, "Aunt, the tour guide is claiming that he knows a lot about penguins and polar bears. If he really knows a lot about them, then he knows where they live. Penguins live in Antarctica, but polar bears do not! Polar bears only live in the north, not the south. They live in the Arctic, not Antarctica."