Jim Cantore has weathered 25 years of chasing big storms

He has no plans to take cover yet

By Jonathan Lebowitz USA TODAY

The only time most people ever challenge brutal weather at work is when they have to walk outside in 100-degree heat or 30-below chill to shift from their cars to an air-conditioned or comfortably heated office build-

ing.
The Weather Channel's Jim Cantore, on the other hand, has earned a reputation for wran-gling Mother Nature in the field. Whether he is leaning into the

or shivering as a blast of polar air drops down from the Arctic, Cantore, 47, is often on the scene to help viewers appreciate how weather tests us.

Cantore is celebrating 25 years of those dangers with the Weather Channel this summer.

Cantore earned his bachelor's degree in meteorology at Lyndon State College in Vermont. While there, he worked for the school's television station, and afterward, he took a job at the Weather Channel, moving to the network's home in Atlanta.

"The heat in the South definitely took some getting used

nitely took some getting used to," Cantore says.

He cites a deepening love affair between television audiences and severe weather. Rat-

"Now that people can watch the Weather Channel in high definition, we can show them the weather in its full fury."

ings for The Weather Channel nearly double when severe weather strikes.

"I think that providing weather forecast updates will always be at the heart of what we do," Cantore says. "But now that people can watch the Weather Channel in high definition, we

can show them the weather in

tan show them the weather in its full fury."

This past spring, Cantore cov-ered severe tornado outbreaks in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Joplin, in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Joplin, Mo. Both towns were extensive-Mo. Both towns ... ly damaged. "It was as unthinkable as you would think," Cantore says.

"Houses were piled up into cor-ners, and the streets looked more like movie sets."

In his latest series on the Weather Channel, Cantore Sto-ries, Cantore travels to some of the most extreme climates on the planet. While there, he meets with the native people who have lived amid the harsh

who have lived amid the harsh elements through generations. "It's pretty interesting how people cope with living in extreme climates," Cantore says. But "the greatest part about Cantore Stories is that I don't have to be Dr. Doom, Viewers get to see a lighter side of me."

When he is not working in the

When he is not working in the studio or out in the field chasing storms. Cantore enjoys spendstorms, Cantore enjoys spend-ing time at home with his two

children, both of whom have fragile X syndrome, a genetic disorder that can lead to autism-like symptoms, or what Cantore calls "the storm that hurts the

calls "the storm that hurts the most and never goes away."
Fragile X syndrome is often associated with learning and behavioral problems.
"What my children have to deal with on a daily basis is by far more difficult than anything I will ever come in contact with,"

Cantore says.

As far as his future at the Weather Channel is concerned, Cantore has no plans to slow down or stop chasing storms.

This is the role people expect

me to be in," he says.
"I like to be in the middle of it all."



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