

NOUS44 KHGX 070450
PNSHGX

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HOUSTON/GALVESTON TX
1150 PM CST MAR 6 2013

...MARCH 2013 CONTINUES A DRY TREND...

SPRING CAN BE A SEASON OF EXTREMES...AND MARCH 2013 WAS AN EXAMPLE OF TEMPERATURE EXTREMES ACROSS SOUTHEAST TEXAS. AT LEAST FOUR MAJOR FRONTAL SYSTEMS BROUGHT LIMITED RAINFALL DURING THE MONTH...HOWEVER THEIR MAJOR IMPACT WAS TO USHER IN ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES AHEAD OF AND BELOW NORMAL TEMPERATURES BEHIND EACH FRONT. OVERALL...THE MONTH AVERAGED OUT BELOW NORMAL FOR RAINFALL AT ALL THE FIRST AND SECOND CLIMATE SITES. TEMPERATURES FOR MARCH AVERAGED BELOW NORMAL AT ALL BUT TWO OF THE CLIMATE LOCATIONS.

FOUR COLD EPISODES BROUGHT OVERNIGHT LOW TEMPERATURES AT LEAST INTO THE 30S. OF THESE...THE FIRST WAS THE COLDEST WITH THE LOWEST MONTHLY MINIMUM OF 27 OCCURRING AT CONROE ON BOTH MARCH 1ST AND 3RD. IN CONTRAST...THERE WERE FOUR WARM PERIODS WITH DAYTIME HIGHS IN THE 80S. DURING THE WARMEST EPISODE...THREE CLIMATE SITES SAW DAYTIME HIGHS IN THE 90S ON THE 18TH...INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT AND HOOKS AIRPORT BOTH REACHED 90 WHILE SUGAR LAND RECORDED 91.

THE MONTH OF MARCH CONTINUED A DRY TREND THAT BEGAN IN MID JANUARY. THIS ELEVEN-WEEK PERIOD BECAME ONE OF THE EIGHT DRIEST IN THE CLIMATE RECORD HISTORY FOR THREE OF THE MAJOR CLIMATE SITES. ALONG THE COAST CONDITIONS WERE ONLY A LITTLE BETTER...FOR EXAMPLE THE PERIOD WAS ONLY THE EIGHTEENTH DRIEST IN GALVESTON. COMBINING THE FOUR VERY WARM PERIODS IN MARCH WITH THE VERY DRY CONDITIONS HAVE LED TO DROUGHT WORSENING ACROSS THE COUNTY WARNING AND FORECAST AREA OF THE HOUSTON/GALVESTON NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE. THE U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR RELEASED ON APRIL 2ND SHOWED THAT ALL COUNTIES ALONG AND WEST OF INTERSTATE 45 WERE EXPERIENCING MODERATE DROUGHT AND MOST WERE SEEING EXTREME DROUGHT CONDITIONS DEVELOPING. AREAS TO THE EAST OF INTERSTATE 45 WERE EITHER ABNORMALLY DRY OR IN MODERATE DROUGHT.

TO ILLUSTRATE THE SEVERITY OF THE DRY PERIOD...THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES THE TOP TEN DRIEST RAINFALL PERIODS FOR JANUARY 16TH THROUGH MARCH 31ST FOR THE FOUR FIRST ORDER CLIMATE SITES. NOTE THAT DATA FOR THIS PERIOD IN HOUSTON BEGAN IN 1889...GALVESTON IN 1872... COLLEGE STATION IN 1901...AND HOBBY AIRPORT IN 1942.

TOP TEN DRIEST RAINFALL FOR JANUARY 16 THROUGH MARCH 31

RANK	HOUSTON		COLLEGE STATION		GALVESTON		HOBBY AIRPORT	
	VALUE	YEAR	VALUE	YEAR	VALUE	YEAR	VALUE	YEAR
1	1.36	1916	1.60	1996	0.58	1916	1.40	1954
2	1.71	1954	2.06	1954	1.71	1976	1.88	1962

3	1.80	1996	2.12	1972	1.89	1925	2.29	1996
4	2.32	2013	2.31	1971	2.10	1954	2.90	1971
5	2.44	1962	2.38	1904	2.14	1904	2.91	2013
6	2.54	1967	2.68	1942	2.52	1939	3.76	2009
7	2.79	1917	2.70	1986	2.54	1996	3.82	1975
8	3.00	1976	3.02	2013	2.58	2006	4.09	1967
9	3.32	1971	3.05	2002	2.63	2002	4.33	2011
10	3.34	1909	3.06	1962	2.74	1965	4.52	2000

NOW FOR THE GENERAL MONTHLY CLIMATE DATA. THE FOLLOWING TABLE LISTS THE MONTHLY CLIMATE DATA FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND-ORDER CLIMATE SITES IN THE NWS HOUSTON/GALVESTON COUNTY WARNING AREA FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH.

SITE	AVG HIGH	AVG LOW	AVG MONTH	DEP	RAIN	DEP
IAH	73.2	49.3	61.2	-1.5	0.89	-2.52
GLS	70.3	57.2	63.7	+0.3	0.72	-2.44
CLL	72.7	48.3	60.5	-0.9	1.73	-1.44
HOU	72.9	52.0	62.5	-0.8	1.18	-2.02
CXO	72.5	43.5	58.0	-2.3	1.59	-1.60
UTS	71.5	46.5	59.0	-1.6	2.65	-0.76
DWH	73.5	47.3	60.4	-0.4	0.63	-2.96
SGR	73.9	49.3	61.6	-0.2	1.37	-1.88
LBX	72.0	47.3	59.7	-2.3	0.24	-3.23
PSX	73.5	52.7	63.1	+0.2	T	-3.00
LVJ	71.4	50.3	60.8	-1.7	0.56	-2.47
HGX	71.4	49.7	60.6	-1.2	0.70	-2.54

HERE ARE SOME MARCH TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL TOTALS AVAILABLE FROM THE HOUSTON/GALVESTON AREA NETWORK OF CO-OP OBSERVERS THAT HAVE REPORTED AS OF APRIL 4TH.

LOCATION	RAINFALL (INCHES)	AVERAGE HIGH TEMPERATURE	AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURE
ANAHUAC	0.30	68.8	46.7
ANGLETON	0.23	71.5	52.3
BAY CITY	0.19	72.2	45.3
BAYTOWN	0.38	69.5	47.0
BELLVILLE 6NNE	1.20	71.5	46.3
CLEVELAND	3.07	68.6	44.0
CONROE	0.72	71.1	47.3
CROCKETT	1.91	70.8	43.4
DANEVANG 1W	0.15	72.8	44.8
EAGLE LAKE	1.15	72.1	45.3
EL CAMPO	0.31	73.0	47.2
FREEPORT	0.27	70.3	52.7
HOUSTON WFO	0.70	71.4	49.9

HUNTSVILLE	1.56	68.3	44.6
LIBERTY	0.48	72.0	47.2
MADISONVILLE	1.75	69.7	40.9
SOMERVILLE DAM	1.65	73.0	44.7
WASHINGTON SP	1.12	73.2	40.9

\$\$