



NWS Blacksburg Top 5 Weather and Climate Events for 2015



I. Flooding from Tropical Moisture Plume (September 28th – October 1st)

Several stations recorded over 20 inches of rain for the month of September, and the vast majority of the rain fell in a 6-day period. The “bullseye” for rainfall was in northern Patrick County, VA where Woolwine picked up an amazing 21.18” for the month, which most of the rain fell during the last week of September. Initially, the rain was persistent but of light to moderate intensity, but several bands of much heavier rain moved across the VA Blue Ridge and into parts of the New and upper Roanoke basins during the overnight hours of Sep. 28-29 and produced widespread flash flooding across several counties.

At least 24 homes were completely destroyed along the Little River basin in Floyd County. Up to \$10 million damage occurred in Floyd, Patrick, and Montgomery counties alone. Floyd County officials described it as one of the worst natural disasters in recent memory there.

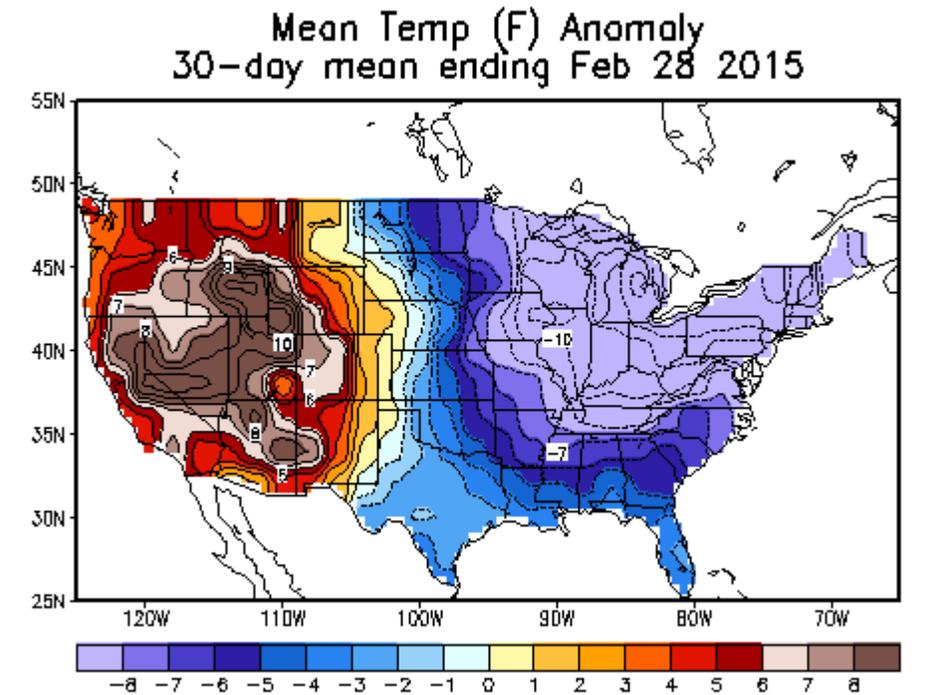
Stages along the upper Roanoke rose dramatically with the South Fork gage at Shawsville (SHAV2) rising to 9.32 feet, which was also the 2nd highest on record (since 1960). Several homes and trailers were flooded along the river. Stages further downstream were slightly less impressive but still very significant. The Roanoke River at Lafayette (LAAV2) reached Moderate Flood Stage (12.16’), and a number of trailer homes near the river were evacuated. This was the 6th highest stage at Lafayette since the gage was established in 1944. At the Roanoke forecast point (RONV2), the peak stage was 14.4 feet, which was the 10th highest on record (since 1901).



Damage from Flooding in Snowville, VA

2. February Cold

Multiple blasts of Arctic air in February 2015 resulted in the third coldest February on record in Danville, Lynchburg, Roanoke, and Blacksburg. All of the climate stations (Blacksburg, Bluefield, Danville, Lynchburg, and Roanoke) set record low temperatures during the morning of February 20. Lynchburg recorded a new all time record low temperature of -11°F early in the morning on the 20th.

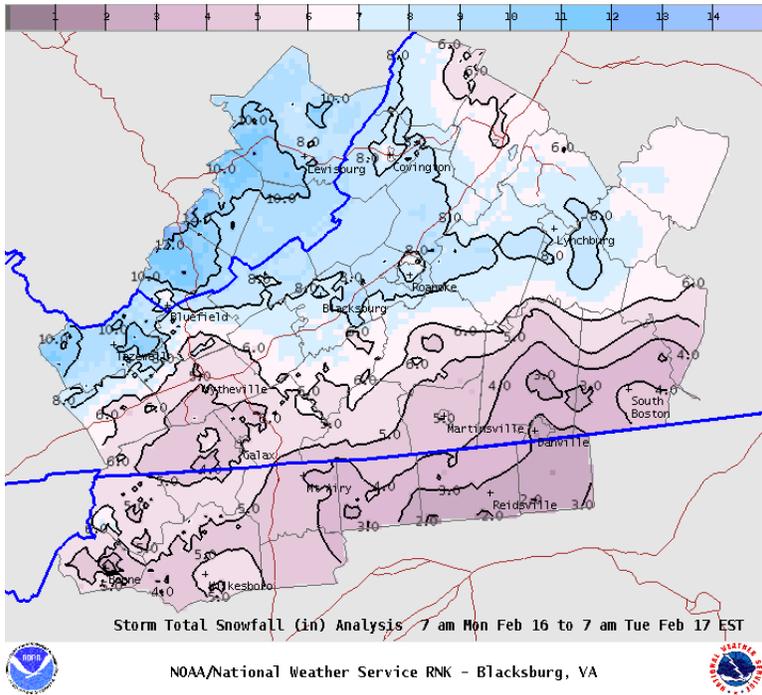


3. President's Day Winter Storm (February 16th-17th)

During an intense Arctic outbreak that spread into the region, the most significant snowstorm to affect our area since February 12th-13th, 2014 arrived. Snow spread into the region during the late morning and early afternoon hours of the 16th. Snowfall amounts were significant in many areas. 3 to 4 inches of snow fell across the Piedmont with some sleet mixed in during the latter part of the event. 8 to 11 inches fell across the New River Valley, Greenbrier Valley, and Tazewell County. There was also a vehicle-related death during the snowstorm on Interstate 81 in Wythe County. There were dozens of accidents and disabled vehicles during the height of this storm.



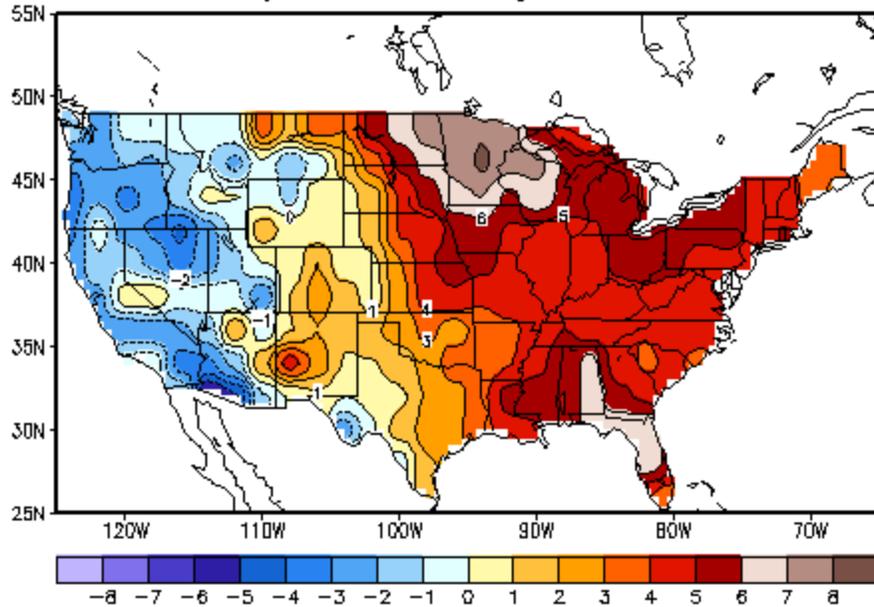
New Hope, WV - Photo Courtesy: Joseph Lee Lackey II



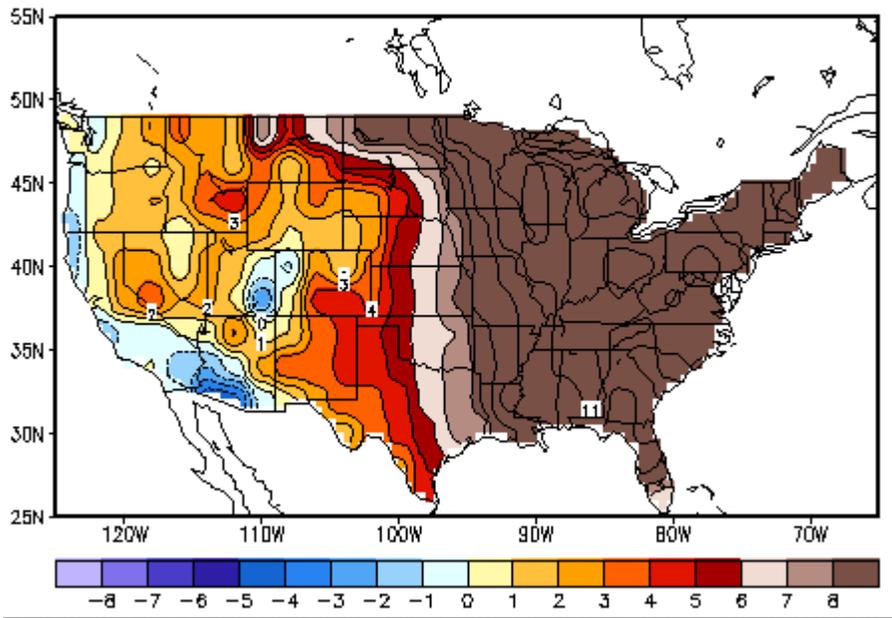
4. Warm November and December

Danville, Blacksburg, and Bluefield all reported their 2nd warmest November on record, while Roanoke measured their 5th warmest November. The unusually warm conditions persisted into December with several daily record highs set. For the period of November 1st through December 28th, Roanoke, Blacksburg, Danville, and Bluefield all set the warmest average temperature on record for this period, while Lynchburg recording their 2nd warmest (behind 1931).

Mean Temp (F) Anomaly
30-day mean ending Nov 30 2015



Mean Temp (F) Anomaly
Dec 1 - 28 2015

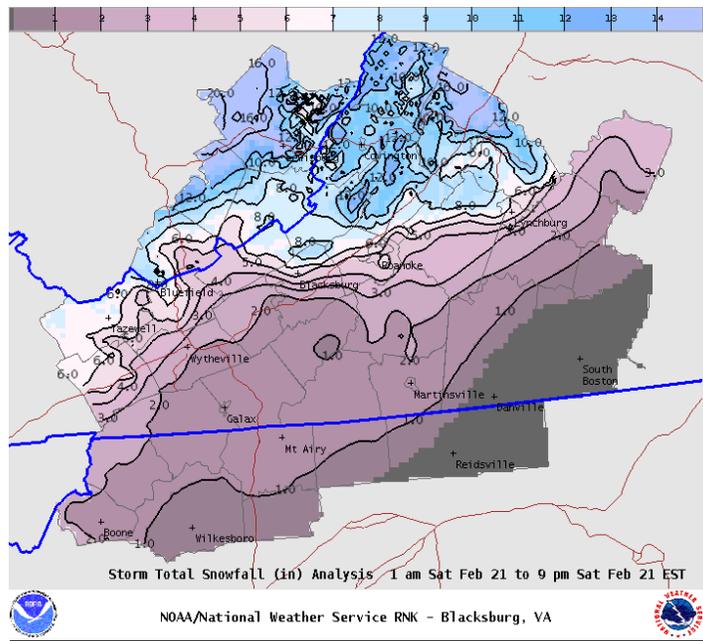


5. February 20th-21st Winter Storm

Very heavy snow ranging from 12 to 24 inches fell in the Allegheny Highlands and Greenbrier Valley. 4 to 8 inches fell in the upper Roanoke Valley and parts of the New River Valley, but less than 2 inches were measured across the southeastern half of our forecast area.



Avalanche in Hinton, WV. Photo Courtesy: Felisha Hartwell



The top 5 weather and climate events for 2015 were determined by a staff vote from employees at the National Weather Service in Blacksburg, VA.