

Summer is Here! Are you Weather Ready?

NOAA and the National Weather Service define summer as the months of June, July and August. Summer weather is usually tranquil, but is often interrupted by periods of thunderstorms with heavy rain and strong winds. The heavy downpours can cause flash flooding, and winds can bring down trees and wires and knock out power. Every now and then, a hurricane or tropical storm crosses the region with significant impacts. The following is a list of notable summer storms with some links for reference. This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list, but a list to give an idea of what weather conditions to be prepared for in the summer so you can be summer weather ready.

Tropical Storms and Hurricanes:

Hurricane Agnes, June 1972

Agnes made secondary landfall near New York City as a strong tropical storm then merged with a low pressure system resulting in heavy rains. Flooding that began in Westchester County on June 19, was followed by widespread flooding in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes on June 23. This was a devastating flood event in Elmira and Corning, NY. This storm produced [widespread heavy rains](#) of 6 to 12 inches across Pennsylvania and western New York. Although more than 10 inches of rain was recorded at Slide Mountain, NY, flooding along the Esopus Creek was relatively minor. At Great Sacandaga Lake, the water level reached a record height for the 42-year history of the lake.

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/wri/1975/0034/report.pdf>

Hurricane Bertha, July 1996

Hurricane Bertha was an early season Category 2 storm when it made landfall on the coast of North Carolina on July 12, 1996. The storm continued up the east coast into southeast New England. [Heavy rains](#) of 5 to 7 inches were reported in the Lower to Mid-Hudson Valley and in the Catskills. Due to heavy precipitation flash flooding occurred in Columbia and Dutchess counties causing states of emergency. In Albany County several roads and small streams were flooded. The Normans Kill Creek spilled over its banks. Flooding was most widespread in the Towns of Bethlehem, New Scotland and Rensselaerville. High winds contributed to scattered power outages across Eastern New York State. Across Berkshire (MA) and Litchfield (CT) counties rain totals ranged from 3 to 5 inches and minor river flooding occurred across the area.

<https://www.weather.gov/media/publications/assessments/bertha.pdf>

Hurricanes Connie and Diane, August 1955

Back to back hurricanes, [Connie](#) and [Diane](#) made landfall on the coast of North Carolina only 5 days apart, significantly impacting southern New England. Hurricane force wind and storm surge caused only minor damages, but rainfall created devastating impacts. [Significant rainfall amounts from Connie](#) set the stage for the devastating floods caused by the [rainfall from Diane](#). Connie dumped over 10 inches of rain at Slide Mountain in the Catskills of New York. Five days later, hurricane Diane dropped over 19

inches of rain at Westfield MA. Eight states were declared federal disaster areas. Known as the \$1 billion hurricane (1955 dollars), Diane caused record flooding in the Lower Hudson Valley of New York and in the State of Connecticut, including along the Housatonic, Mad, Naugatuck and Farmington rivers.

<https://ctstatelibrary.org/PG160.html>

Notable Summer Floods:

Tropical Storm Irene, August 28-29, 2011

The storm made tertiary landfall near New York City and moved north northeast over Vermont. It produced widespread, devastating flooding in Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, and New Jersey. The observed sudden and tremendous increases in river stages in a 2–3 hour timeframe were more characteristic of flash flooding in small streams than expected behavior from main stem rivers. A rainfall maximum of over 18 inches was recorded in the Catskills. In addition to the widespread and significant flooding, tropical storm force winds took down many trees and resulted in nearly one million people without power, some for up to a week. Several towns in Vermont and in the Catskill Mountains in southeast New York were entirely isolated and eventually received airlifted disaster supplies until roadways were made passable again. Interstate 88 in New York was closed from Exit 22 to 24 from 28 August 2011 through 31 August 2011 due to flooding concerns, including evaluation of a bridge affected by high water (later deemed to be safe). Portions of Interstate 87 southbound (New York State Thruway) were closed on 28 August 2011 for flooding as well as for downed trees and power lines.

<https://www.weather.gov/media/publications/assessments/Irene2012.pdf>

Flash Flooding, Hoosick Falls, NY – July 1, 2017

It was the second straight day of heavy rainfall. The village of Hoosick Falls was particularly hard-hit by flash flooding, with several residences experiencing basement and first-floor flooding and several roads washed out. Local rainfall amounts up to 5" were recorded

<https://www.weather.gov/aly/FloodSevere1Jul2017>

June 2006

[Widespread flooding](#) in the Mohawk and Hudson River basins and eastern Catskills occurred. Flooding was most severe along the Mohawk River and its tributaries. On Tuesday, [June 27th, a frontal boundary stalled across the region](#). The boundary extended from southern Quebec across central New York and to Florida and lingered into June 29th. [A weak disturbance, tropical in origin, moved along the boundary across southeast New York Wednesday morning, June 28th](#). A strong low level jet also developed which transported more tropical moisture into central and eastern New York. [Rainfall amounts from June 26th through the 30th](#) ranged from [as little as around an inch up to around a foot in the eastern Catskills](#). Rainfall [Departures from normal for June 2006](#).

Notable Summer Severe Weather Outbreaks:

June 30, 1960 Schenectady F-3 Tornado



July 10, 1989 Tornado Outbreak

Two waves of thunderstorms crossing through Eastern New York and Western Connecticut produced severe winds, hail and tornadoes across the region. Most notably the F4 tornado spanning 43 miles path through Montgomery, Schoharie, Albany and Greene counties. This tornado was responsible for 20 million dollars of damages and injured 20 people.

http://files.cbs6albany.com/wrgb/weather_historical_daily/1989/July10_Tornado.html

July 15, 1995 Derecho

Followed by record breaking heat and high humidity the Derecho of 1995 was one of the most devastating severe weather outbreaks. Extensive tree damage occurred across the area with the Adirondacks being the hardest hit. The Department of Environmental Conservation estimated that 900,000 acres of forest were damaged with 125,000 acres of timber sustained moderate to severe damage. The timber damage is estimated at 1 billion board feet with an estimated value of \$204 million. Extensive power outages occurred across eastern New York with 230,000 customers left without power. There was also significant damage to trees and power lines in Berkshire County. A strong wind gust of 92 mph was recorded in Otis, Massachusetts and about 30,000 customers lost power. Northern Connecticut experienced high winds as well, gusting up to 60 mph causing damage to trees and powerlines. Up to 50,000 electric customers lost power in Litchfield County.

<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/misc/AbtDerechos/casepages/jul1995derechopage.htm>

Notable Summer Fires:

Adirondack NY Fires, 1903.

Fires began in April and lingered into June. Between April 20 and June 8, 1903, over 600,000 acres of timberland in northern New York were burned over. Winter snow was less than normal and valleys were bare of snow by early March. Rain in March was plentiful, but from April 17th through June 7th, average precipitation over the area was only 0.2 inches. The fires were extinguished by heavy rains in June.

<https://archive.org/details/forestfiresinadi26sute>

Summer Heat Waves:

June 3-8,1925

High temperatures during this period: Albany, NY: 97°F, 95°F, 97°F, 94°F, 95°F, 91°F.

July 16-19,1953

High temperatures during this period: Albany, NY: 91°F, 98°F, 100°F, 92°F.

July 31-Aug 7,1955

High temperatures during this period: Albany, NY: 94°F, 97°F, 91°F, 94°F, 98°F, 99°F, 94°F, 90°F.