



# May 2013 Climate Summary for SOUTHEAST TEXAS WFO Houston/ Galveston



May 2013 started out on a very cold note. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Galveston (GLS) recorded a record low temperature of 50 degrees. This was a daily and monthly low temperature record that bested the previous monthly low record of 52 degrees set on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1954. Houston Intercontinental Airport (IAH) established three new daily minimum temperature records on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The record low temperature of 42 degrees on the 4<sup>th</sup> is now the coldest temperature at IAH ever recorded in the

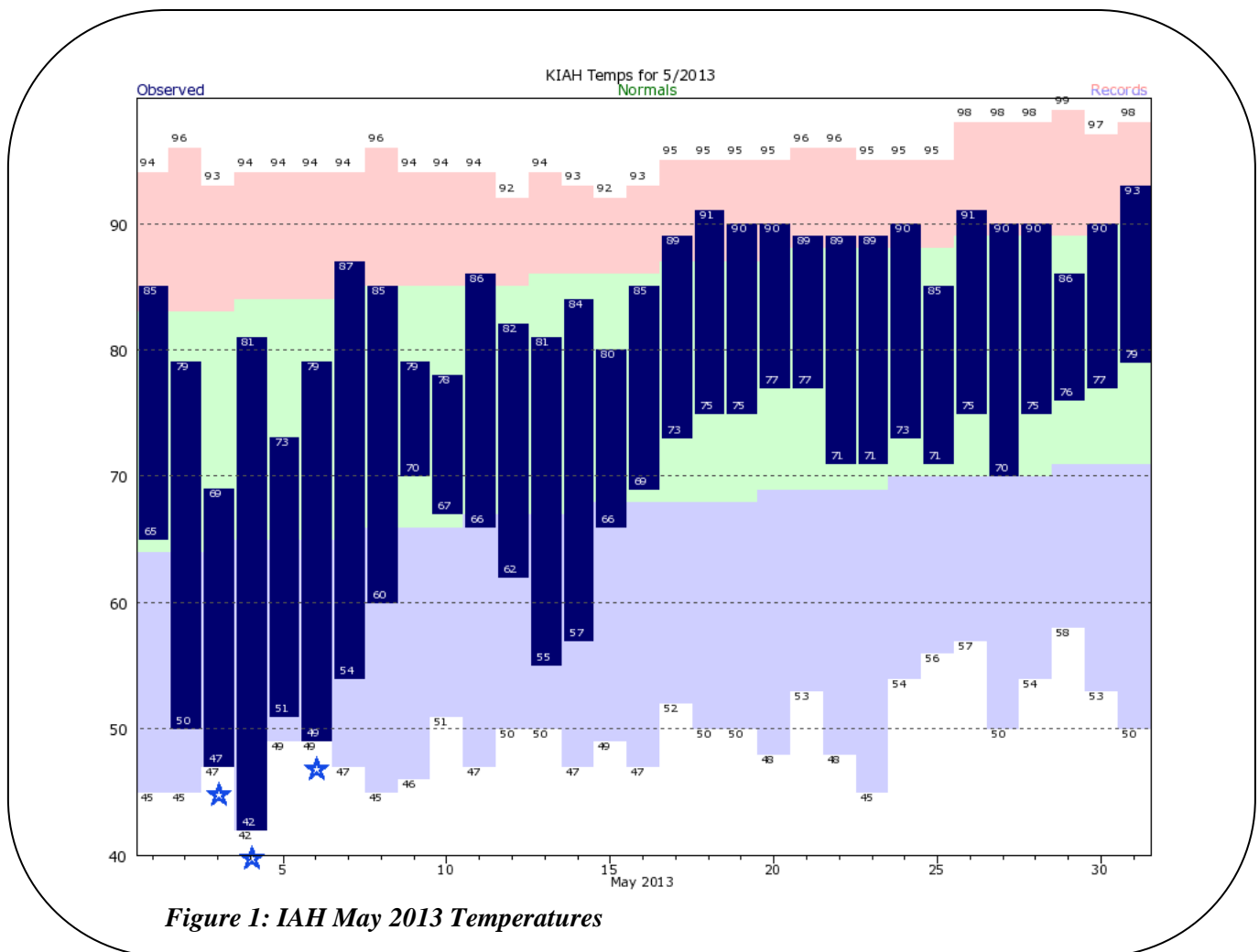
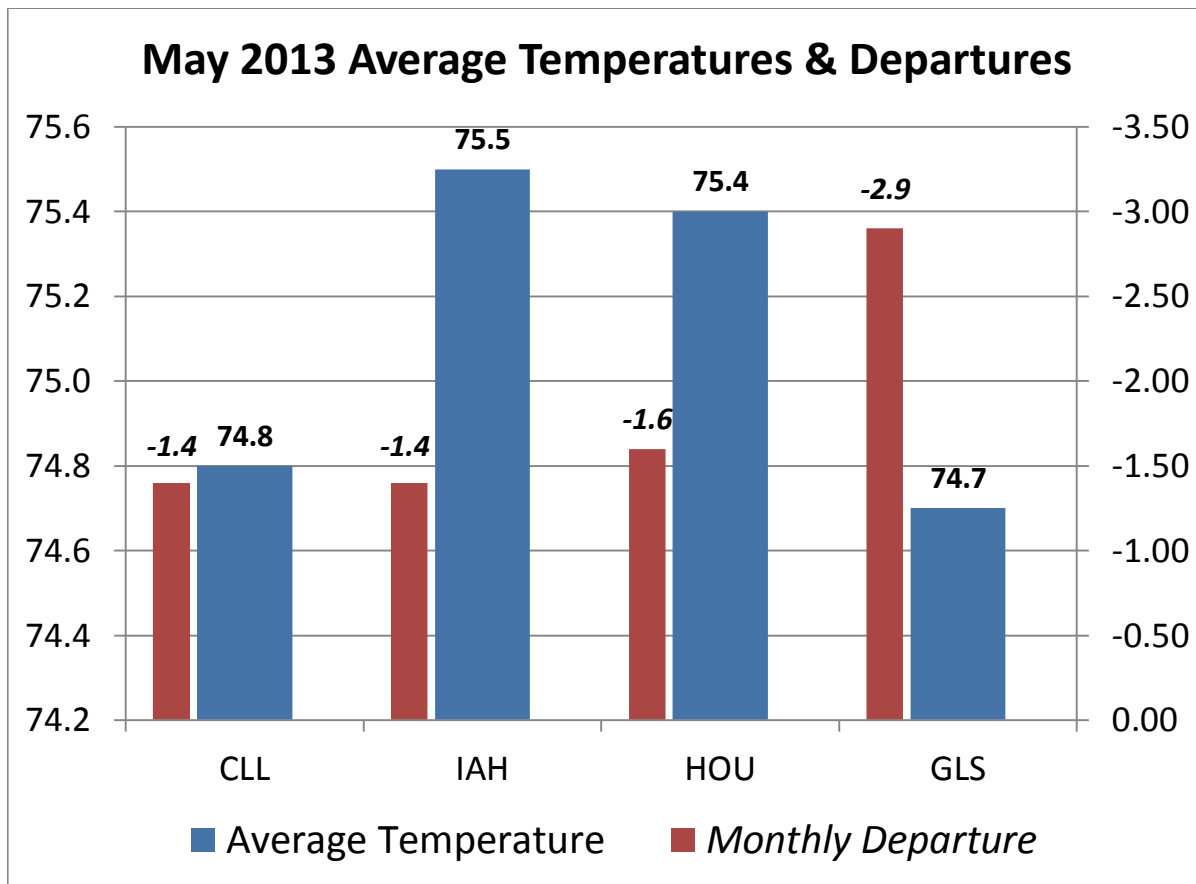


Figure 1: IAH May 2013 Temperatures

month of May. Houston Hobby Airport (HOU) established one new record. The record low temperatures of 51 degrees on the 6<sup>th</sup> broke the previous record low of 53 degrees set in 1957. College Station (CLL) recorded four new daily low temperature records on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The coldest temperature for the entire month of May (42 degrees) tied the previous record set on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1954. Figure 1 is IAH's May 2013 daily temperature chart, with records indicated by a blue star (record low) or a red star (record high). The top of the red bars (bottom of blue) indicate daily record highs

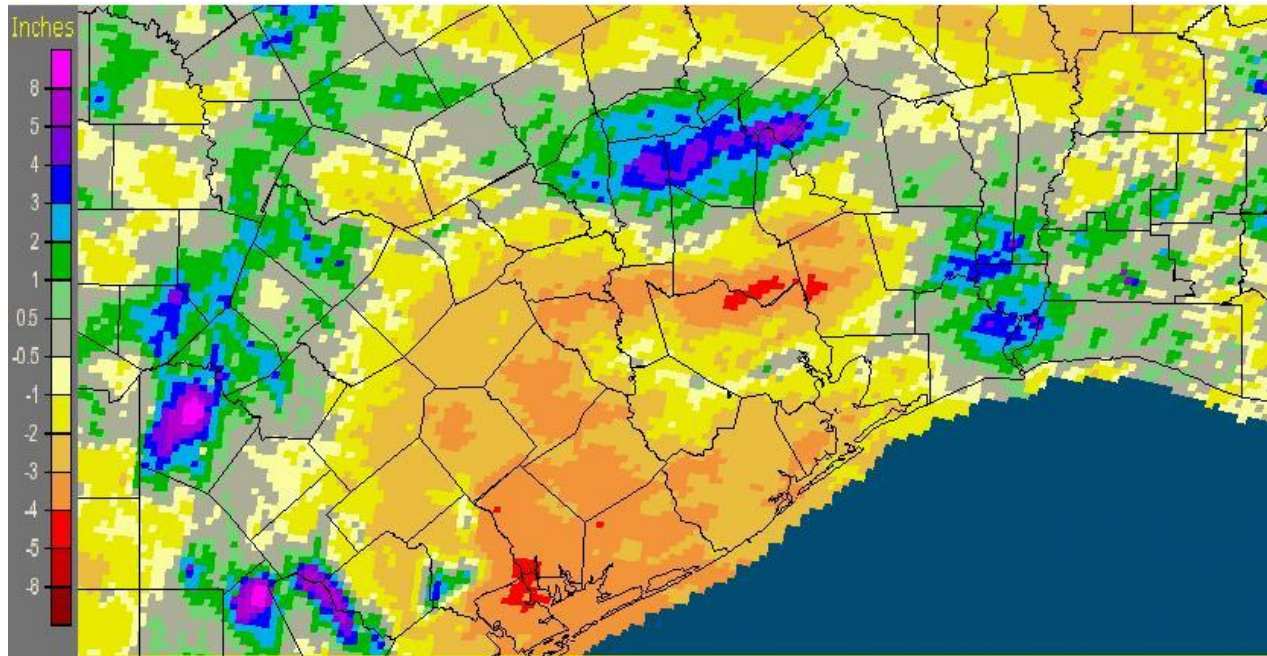
(lows), while the green shading indicates the monthly normal temperatures. The month of May was the third consecutive month in 2013 with below normal temperatures for IAH and CLL. This phenomenon actually happened rather recently during the winter of 2009 and 2010, or more specifically during the months of December 2009 through March 2010. So how cold was March 2013 through May 2013? IAH had an average temperature of 67.8 degrees which was the 30<sup>th</sup> coolest climatological spring in history. The coolest March through May was 64.3 degrees in 1931.



*Figure 2: May 2013 average temperatures & departures*

Despite warmer than normal temperatures at the end of May the record cold in the beginning of the month still allowed May to be below normal for all first order climate sites (Figure 2). The first seven days of May were the coldest ever recorded at the first order climate sites (IAH tied).

Houston/Galveston, TX (HGX): May, 2013 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation  
Valid at 6/1/2013 1200 UTC- Created 6/4/13 0:08 UTC



*Figure 3: May 2013 monthly departure from normal precipitation*

May 2013 rainfall totals ended up below normal for a majority of southeast Texas with departures ranging from -1.79 inches at HOU to -4.07 inches at IAH. Since the start of the year, IAH's rainfall total of only 9.63 inches was 7.67 inches below normal. Locations from around CLL to the Lake Livingston area received rainfall totals of 2 to 5 inches above normal for the month of May (see Figure 3). College Station received 3.28 inches of rainfall on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May which broke their record rainfall for the date of 2.10 inches from 1936.

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