September was a month of contrast as the transition to autumn started. The month began warm as the subtropical ridge returned to our area. However, a series of cold and warm fronts moved through the area which did provide some rainfall. September 2012 was cooler than last year for all major climate sites though (Figure 1). Galveston and College Station were above normal for the month while the


City of Houston and Houston Hobby were both below normal for the month. Thanks to a cooler month compared to last year, 2012 is now the second warmest year on record for College Station and Houston Hobby, while 2012 is tied with 2011 for the warmest year on record for the City of Houston. 2012 is still the warmest year on record for the City of Galveston. The cooler weather for this September compared to last September can be seen in a couple of different ways. First, in the fewer number of 100 degree days for 2012 compared to 2011. All first order climate sites revealed a fewer number of 100 degree days in 2012 than
in 2011 (Figure 2). In fact College Station was the only first order climate site to reach the century mark. Even though College Station reached at or above 100 degrees four times this month, in September of 2011 College Station reached the century mark eleven times. There is also a significant contrast between the number of days with high temperatures less than 90 degrees between September of 2012 and September 2011 (Figure 3).


Figure 2: Number of days with the high temperature at or above 100 degrees $F$

$\square$ September $2011 \square$ September 2012
Figure 3: Number of days with the high temperature less than 90 degrees $F$

As mentioned above, Southeast Texas had periods of both cooler and warmer than normal weather in September of 2012. In particular, there were two major periods of below average and above average temperatures (Figure 4). September for the most part was also dry. The City of Houston recorded 2.02" of rainfall which is 2.10 " below normal for the month of September. The northern climate sites

did receive more rainfall than the southern sites as moisture from the remnants of Hurricane Miriam interacted with a storm system that tracked across Texas. Huntsville, for example, received 5.65" inches of rainfall in the month of September, which is 1.94 " above normal for the month. Figure 5 clearly shows this gradient. Along the coast of Southeast Texas, only $25-50 \%$ of normal precipitation fell across the area. Northern counties, e.g., Houston County, received over $200 \%$ of their normal September precipitation in some parts of the county.

Houston/Galveston. TX (HGX) : September, 2012 Monthly Percent of Normal Precipitation Valid at 10/1/2012 1200 UTC- Created 10/3/12 21:42 UTC


Figure 5: September 2012 percent of normal precipitation

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