

APRIL

Temperature: For the 12th consecutive month, above normal temperatures were recorded across the Washington/Baltimore area. Positive departures were +2.8°F at DCA, +2.6°F at BWI and +2.9°F at IAD. June-like readings occurred on the 11th, 18th-19th, and 25th-26th when highs soared into the 80s at many locations including DCA and IAD; BWI recorded 80°F or higher on the 18th, 19th and 26th. In addition, maximum readings were at or above 70°F on 8 days at DCA, 10 days at BWI and 7 days at IAD.

The months' coolest day was the 7th when highs held in the 40s throughout the region. BWI recorded its final freeze of the season on the 3rd (30°F); IAD, on the 16th (31°F). Spring is also known for frequent rapid rises in temperatures during the day. On the 18th, BWI's temperature rose 42 degrees, from a morning minimum of 43°F to its monthly maximum of 85°F during the afternoon.

Precipitation: Well above normal rainfall occurred throughout the area with an average of 5"-7" observed. Many sites recorded their wettest April on record. IAD's total of 6.22" (+3.00") was its 3rd wettest on record. IAD recorded its greatest April rainfall total since 1983. DCA's total of 4.92" (+2.15") was its second wettest in 25 years (see cover graphic). BWI's total of 4.62" was +1.62" above normal for the month. The excessive rainfall was primarily the result of a 2-day event on the 20-21st. Torrential rain with frequent thunderstorms—nearly unprecedented in number for the area—dumped more than 2 inches in many locations on the 20th, followed by a steady soaking the following day. Some locations recorded more than 4" rainfall from the event. Totals included 4.02" in Sabillasville, MD (Frederick County); 3.80" in Colesville, MD (Montgomery County); and 3.57" in Vienna, VA (Fairfax County). IAD measured 3.84" while DCA observed 2.07" and BWI, 1.97". The heavy rainfall lead to localized flooding, road closures and some creeks overflowing their banks.

Severe weather also impacted the area on the 20th when three tornadoes caused property damage but no fatalities or injuries. An EF-1 rated tornado—winds to 100 mph—struck Chillum, MD (Prince Georges County). The length of path was 1/3 of a mile with a width of 50 to 100 yards. The tornado first struck Saint Charles, MD (Charles County) with winds estimated at 80 mph. That tornado was rated EF-0 with a length of 2 miles and a width of 50 to 100 yards. Another tornado, also rated EF-0, hit Middletown, VA, with winds estimated to 80 mph. The path length was 1/2 mile long with a width of about 30-40 yards. In addition to these two intense events, the area also experienced severe weather on the evening of the 11th as strong thunderstorm winds damaged trees in DC and Bethesda, MD. The months' final event brought another soaking rain on the 28th with DCA recording 0.96" and BWI, 0.88". The same storm system brought destructive tornadoes to southeastern Virginia including an EF-3 storm in Suffolk, VA, with wind estimated in excess of 150 mph. The tornado resulted in more than 200 injuries, damaged over 400 homes and caused property damage of more than \$30 million, according to press reports.

APRIL 2008 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Year to Date
National (DCA)	67.5	50.2	58.9	56.1	2.8	85/18	40/3	4.92	2.77	+2.15	13.26
Baltimore (BWI)	65.8	45.8	55.8	53.2	2.6	85/18	30/3	4.62	3.00	+1.62	12.26
Dulles (IAD)	66.5	45.5	56.0	53.1	2.9	83/25,26	30/3	6.41	3.41	+3.00	12.82

Looking Ahead to May: DCA's high for April was 85°F on the 18th. When will the area see its first 90°F or greater reading for the season? Below are the first 90 degrees readings for the last 10 years.

Year	First 90+ Reading of Year at DCA	Year	First 90+ Reading of Year at DCA
2007	May 26 (91°F)	2002	April 16 (92°F)
2006	May 20 (95°F)	2001	June 13 (93°F)
2005	June 28 (94°F)	2000	May 30 (90°F)
2004	April 19 (91°F)	1999	May 7 (92°F)
2003	June 26 (93°F)	1998	May 19 (90°F)