

July 2009

Temperatures: July temperatures were comfortable across the Washington/Baltimore area with no periods of intense heat and humidity. Temperature departures were -2.3°F at DCA, -1.9°F at BWI and -0.8°F at IAD. It was the coolest July at all three major airports since 2001. For the second consecutive month, subnormal readings were recorded at DCA and BWI. DCA observed only 7 days with highs at or above 90°F, fewest since 2004; BWI, 4 such days, fewest since 2004; and IAD, 4 days with highs at or above 90°F, fewest since 2000. The only consecutive day period with highs at or above 90°F occurred on the 25th-26th at DCA and BWI. Comfortable levels of humidity resulted in pleasant overnight minimum readings. BWI recorded 8 minimums in the 50s, including a record tying 58°F on the 14th and a record 57°F on the 19th. IAD observed 6 days with minimums in the 50s, including a record low of 53°F on the 14th. The months' hottest conditions occurred on the 16th when highs reached 96°F at DCA, 95°F at IAD and 94°F at BWI. The 90°F readings on the 12th were the latest observed in July since 1979 at BWI and since 1998 at DCA and IAD.

Precipitation: After three excessively wet months, drier conditions prevailed across the region. Subnormal rainfall was reported at the three major airports, although amounts varied considerably because of the convective nature of the precipitation. Monthly totals were 1.07" (-2.59") at DCA, 3.29" (-0.56") at BWI and 2.18" (-1.39") at IAD. Washington's total was its fifth driest July on record and driest since 1999. This year marked the fourth consecutive year with subnormal July rainfall at DCA and IAD. The first 22 days of the month were very dry with less than ½ inch rainfall across most locations. IAD reported only .09" during this period, its driest July 1-22 ever recorded. Many areas received their heaviest rainfall of the month on the 23rd when tropical downpours resulting in totals of 3.43" in Germantown (Montgomery County), MD, 2.25" in Fairfax, VA, and 1.48" at IAD.

Notable severe weather events occurred toward the end of month. On the 25th, a microburst with maximum winds of 70 mph was confirmed near New Market (Shenandoah County), VA, resulting in tree and property damage. The following day, areas north and west of the metro area as well as portions of southern Maryland were impacted by damaging winds and large hail. Hail up to 1.75" struck near Fallston (Harford County), MD; 1 inch hail pelted the ground near Waterford (Loudoun County), VA. On the 29th, an EF-1 (winds 90-100mph) tornado struck Oldtown (Allegany County) causing tree and property damage. The path length was about 5 miles and path width 100 yards. Severe weather also struck on the 31st across Northern Maryland when three tornadoes caused tree and property damage. Two EF-1 tornadoes were confirmed near Ijamsville (Frederick County): The first tornado was surveyed with a path length of 2.5 miles, a path width of 125 yards and maximum wind speed of 90-100 mph. The second tornado was assessed with estimated wind speeds of 100-110 mph, path length of 2.5 miles and path width of 350 yards. A third tornado struck Gamber (Carroll County) as an EF-0 with estimated maximum wind speeds of 85 mph. The path length was about 1 mile and path width was 100 yards. One person was injured from this storm.

JULY 2009 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr. to Date
National (DCA)	85.8	68.0	76.9	79.2	-2.3	96/16	62/19	1.07	3.66	-2.59	24.20
Baltimore (BWI)	85.3	64.0	74.6	76.5	-1.9	94/16	56/9	3.29	3.85	-0.56	28.09
Dulles (IAD)	85.5	64.3	74.9	75.7	-0.8	95/16	53/14	2.18	3.57	-1.39	28.64

Looking Ahead to August: *Cool June and July, Cool August?* The first 2 months of meteorological summer featured below normal temperatures. Does a cool June and July equal a cool August? Below is a look at the most recent 10 summers when a cool June and July were followed by a cooler than normal August at DCA.

August Temperatures and Departures from Normal in Years With Below Normal June and July Temperatures at DCA			
Year	Dep. from Norm.	Year	Dep. from Norm.
2009	?	1965	-0.2°F
2004	-1.5°F	1963	-2.0°F
1985	-0.7°F	1958	-2.0°F
1972	-1.5°F	1956	-2.4°F
1967	-1.2°F	1954	-2.2°F