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September 2012 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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The beginning of the month across Pennsylvania was characterized by above average humidity and long stretches of rainy days. A cold front stalled over southern Pennsylvania during the Labor Day weekend and the remnants of Tropical Storm Isaac slid along it, bringing several days of rain and showers. A tropical storm for much of its lifetime, Isaac became a category 1 hurricane just as it hit New Orleans in nearly the exact location Hurricane Katrina made landfall seven years ago. And nearly one year ago, Pennsylvania was dealing with the historic flooding of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Though the flooding associated with Isaac was not as serious or widespread – missing some areas entirely – localized heavy downpours were more common. Light upper-level winds allowed Isaac to make slow progress through the Midwest and toward the East Coast.

That humid air mass continued to linger over Pennsylvania and the rest of the Mid-Atlantic into the second week of September; dew points were well into the 60s. Low temperatures lingered between 65-70°.

Strong winds during thunderstorms on September 8th led to 23 wind damage reports throughout Pennsylvania, and thousands were left without power. Severe storms occurred along the East Coast, with most of the wind damage (and two tornado reports) occurring in New York.

Afterwards, a large cold front swept out most of the humidity on September 10th. That night, Bradford felt the chill of a 37° low temperature, for a daily average of 53°, which is 6° below normal. High pressure arrived in the humidity's place, and led to a stretch of clear, dry days across the Commonwealth. Daily high temperatures that week were quite comfortable in the high 70s and low 80s, with lows around 50.

Another set of strong thunderstorms led to common power outages in Lancaster County during the middle of the third week of the month. A tornado watch was issued for much of eastern Pennsylvania on the 18th, and though no tornado was reported in Pennsylvania, 10 reports of strong wind damage were made in the southeastern corner of the state.

A trough of low pressure brought cool Canadian air into Pennsylvania and the rest of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic during the third week of the month. Low temperatures were mostly into the low 40s, with some stations reporting into the mid-30s. Daily average temperatures were often 7 to 9 degrees below normal.

The month ended much as it began, with cloud cover and showers as the dominant conditions as pocket of chilly air from central Canada moved into the central Appalachians. The air aloft in northwestern Pennsylvania was almost chilly enough to produce snow, but the result was just cold rain showers. Overall, September 2013 averaged near to slightly below average temperatures and a bit above normal rainfall.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during September 2012 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks of which our office receives routine observations. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EDT)	County
Highest Temperature	Dashiels Dam	95°F	September 1 st	Allegheny
Lowest Temperature	Oswayo 1 Mi. ENE	25°F	September 23 rd	Potter
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	East Stroudsburg 6.5 Mi. NE	10.73"	September 1 st -September 30 th	Montgomery
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	St. Mary's 1.7 SE	3.02"	September 1 st -September 30 th	Elk

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during September, 2012

Sept 18 storms knock out power in a wide swath

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/09/storm_knocks_out_power_to_abou.html

Matters of Fall Foliage and changing climate

<http://www.onearth.org/blog/fall-foliage-clash-with-climate-change>

Retirees encouraged to look for cooler climates, like Pennsylvania

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/sep/17/retirees-target-unconventional-homes-in-cooler-cli/>

