

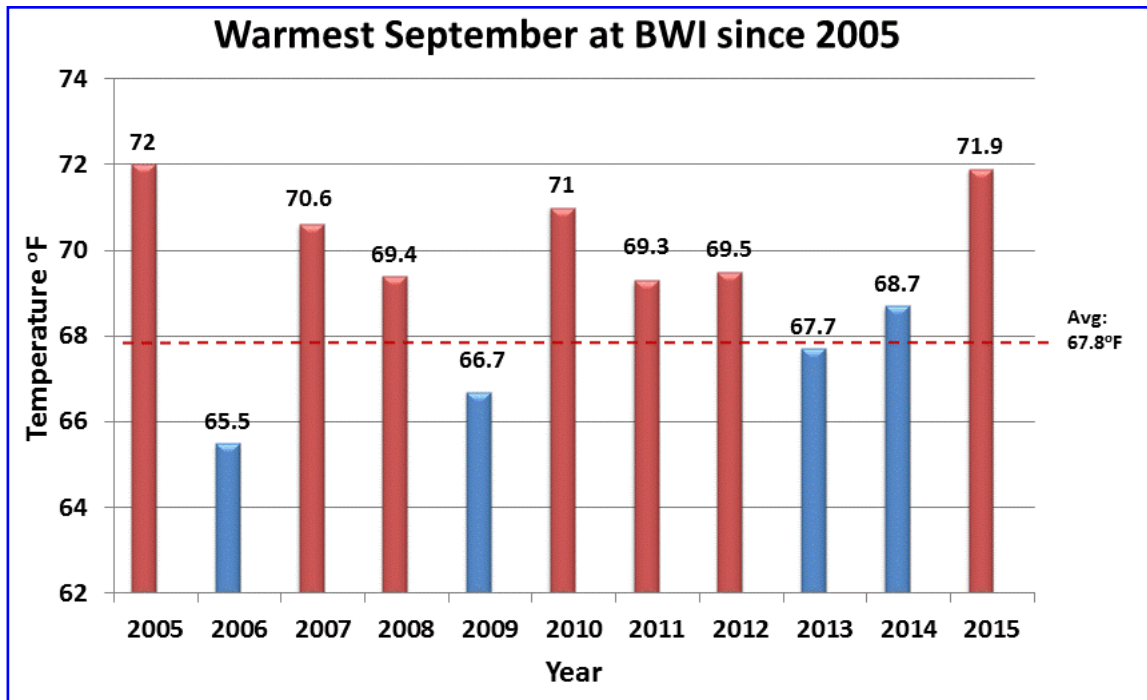


PRESTO

PRECipitation Summary and Temperature Observations
For the Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Area



SEPTEMBER: Above Normal Temperatures; High Impact Event on 29th with Confirmed Tornado and Excessive Rainfall



September Highlights

- ☛ Above normal temperatures at all three major airports: +3.9°F at DCA, +4.1°F at BWI and +3.1°F at IAD
- ☛ Mid-summer heat first third of month: Temperatures soared to at or above 90°F from the 1st-4th and 7th-9th at all three major airports. BWI's maximum reading of 94°F on the 9th and IAD maximum reading of 93°F on the 8th equaled records for the date. DCA was an oppressive 96°F on the 3rd and 95°F on the 1st
- ☛ IAD observed 7th warmest September on record
- ☛ Subnormal rainfall at the three major airports: DCA 2.15" (-1.57"); BWI 3.25" (-0.78") and IAD 2.33" (-1.59")
- ☛ A storm system on the 10th brought beneficial soaking rains to many locations. Highest amounts in Maryland included 3.33" at the U.S. Naval Academy (Anne Arundel County) and 2.82" near Millers (Carroll County) while in Virginia, 2.80" was measured at Dale Enterprise Coop (Rockingham County) and 2.11" near the Staunton Airport (Augusta County)
- ☛ On the 29th, a major weather event started in the evening. An EF-0 tornado was confirmed (winds estimated at 75 mph) near Laurel and Scaggsville in Prince Georges and Howard counties, MD. The tornado was on the ground for 11 minutes with a maximum path width of 75 yards and a path length of 4.3 miles, causing tree and property damage but no reported injuries or fatalities. Strong thunderstorms knocked down trees in Leesburg (Loudoun County), VA, and in Pikesville (Baltimore County), MD. Flash flooding from torrential downpours lead to a water rescue in Leesburg; flooding was reported throughout Frederick County, MD. Rainfall totals reached 5" to nearly 7" across portions of Albemarle, Loudoun, Madison, Spotsylvania and Stafford counties in Virginia and Calvert, Frederick, Harford, Montgomery and St. Mary's counties in Maryland. Greatest totals in Maryland were 6.51" near Dickerson (Montgomery County) and in Virginia, 6.94" at Big Meadows Coop in Madison County. BWI reported a daily record of 2.58"; DCA observed 1.65" and IAD 1.57".

September 2015

Temperatures: All three major airports were above normal: +3.9°F at DCA, +4.1°F at BWI and +3.1°F at IAD. It was the warmest September since 2005 at BWI (see cover graphic) and since 2010 at DCA and IAD. It was the 7th warmest September on record at IAD. The first month of meteorological autumn commenced with midsummer heat. Temperatures soared to at or above 90°F from the 1st-4th and 7th-9th at all three major airports. BWI's maximum reading of 94°F on the 9th and IAD maximum reading of 93°F on the 8th equaled records for the date. While DCA did not set any high temperature records, the mercury hit an oppressive 96°F on the 3rd and 95°F on the 1st. Minimums were uncomfortably warm at DCA remaining at or above 70°F from the 1st-5th and the 8th-10th. DCA tied a record high on the 9th at 75°F and IAD set a record minimum of 72°F. IAD also equaled a daily high minimum of 71°F on the 4th and a new record minimum of 69°F on the 29th. While excessive heat ended after the 9th, warm temperatures continued for most of the month. In addition to the 90°F days, DCA recorded 14 days at or above 80°F, BWI 11 such days and IAD, 10. There were no significant intrusions of chilly air. DCA's monthly minimum was a relatively mild 55°F, BWI, 51°F and IAD, 48°F.

Precipitation: September was extremely dry until the final days when heavy rainfall deluged some locations resulting in above normal monthly totals. Despite this event, at the three major airports, monthly amounts were below normal: DCA 2.15" (-1.57"); BWI 3.25" (-0.78") and IAD, 2.33" (-1.59").

Severe weather occurred on 2nd when penny to quarter size hail (1.00") struck some locations in Virginia, including near Criders (Rockingham County), near Nethers (Rappahannock County), and in Etlan (Madison County). On the 4th, localized severe thunderstorms in Virginia knocked down tree limbs near Nokesville while 0.88" hail pelted the area near Bull Run (Prince William County). A storm system on the 10th brought beneficial soaking rains to many locations. Highest amounts in Maryland were 3.33" at the U.S. Naval Academy (Anne Arundel County) and 2.82" near Millers (Carroll County); in Virginia, 2.80" was measured at Dale Enterprise Coop (Rockingham County) and 2.11" near the Staunton Airport (Augusta County). Two days later, a waterspout was observed over the Potomac River from Cobb Island, (Charles County), MD; 2.06" deluged Laurel (Prince Georges County), MD, and 1.37" was reported in Northwest D.C. On the 21st-22nd, 1.18" soaked Scottsville (Nelson County), VA, and 1.04" was measured in Culpeper.

The month's greatest impacts occurred on the evening of the 29th. An EF-0 tornado was confirmed (winds estimated at 75 mph) near Laurel and Scaggsville in Prince Georges and Howard counties, MD. The tornado was on the ground for 11 minutes with a maximum path width of 75 yards and a path length of 4.3 miles, causing tree and property damage but no reported injuries or fatalities. Strong thunderstorms knocked down trees in Leesburg (Loudoun County) and in Pikesville (Baltimore County), MD. Flash flooding from torrential downpours lead to a water rescue in Leesburg; flooding was reported throughout Frederick County, MD. Rainfall totals reached 5" to nearly 7" across portions of Albemarle, Loudoun, Madison, Spotsylvania and Stafford counties, VA; and Calvert, Frederick, Harford, Montgomery and St. Mary's counties, MD. Greatest totals in Maryland were 6.51" near Dickerson (Montgomery County); in Virginia, 6.94" at Big Meadows Coop in Madison County. BWI reported a daily record of 2.58"; DCA reported 1.65", IAD 1.57".

September 2015 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Yr. to Date
National (DCA)	83.5	66.2	74.9	71.0	+3.9	96/3	55/14	2.15	3.72	-1.57	35.04
Baltimore (BWI)	82.3	61.4	71.9	67.8	+4.1	94/3,9	51/14,15	3.25	4.03	-0.78	39.49
Dulles (IAD)	82.1	60.0	71.0	67.9	+3.1	94/3	48/14,15	2.33	3.92	-1.59	29.61

Looking Ahead to October: The first freeze! October traditionally marks the first freeze in suburban locations. When will the Washington/Baltimore area record its first freeze in 2015? Below is a list of the first 32°F or lower readings at DCA and IAD in the last 10 years.

Year	First 32°F (or lower) reading		Year	First 32°F (or lower) reading	
	DCA	IAD		DCA	IAD
2014	November 15	November 8	2009	December 6	November 6
2013	November 13	October 25	2008	November 18	October 20
2012	November 26	October 13	2007	November 24	October 29
2011	December 10	October 30	2006	November 4	October 13
2010	November 29	November 1	2005	November 17	November 11

* Latest first frost at DCA: 12/22/01; at IAD, 11/11/05