

SEPTEMBER 1995: After a very dry and hot August across portions of the local region, badly-needed rains fell during September, bringing an end to a record stretch of 33 consecutive days (August 7th – September 8th) without measurable precipitation at DCA. A thunderstorm on the 9th at DCA ended the unprecedented dry-spell and yielded more precipitation (0.94") than for entire month of August (0.88"). Not all of the Washington/Baltimore area received rain from these storms, but beneficial rains fell on several other September days. Moisture from the remnants of Pacific hurricane Ismael moved through the region on the 16th and 17th, providing two-day rainfall totals exceeding an inch at most locations. Additional showers on the 22nd dumped nearly an inch of rain at DCA. Three consecutive days (24th–26th) of showers provided additional beneficial moisture across the local area. Despite the frequency of rainfall, subnormal monthly totals prevailed at 4 of the 5 airports. In fact, the slightly below normal total at BWI marked the 12th consecutive month with subnormal precipitation. Year-to-date precipitation departures at the five local airports vary from just under 4 inches at IAD to as much as 7 inches at BWI.

Monthly temperatures averaged near to slightly below normal at most locations; however, both BWI and ADW reported monthly departures of +2°F or higher. In fact, the average monthly temperature of 70.5°F at BWI was the warmest September reading since 1980. The first half of the month was abnormally warm (temperatures averaged nearly 3°F above normal at DCA), with highs mostly in the eighties and nineties. DCA recorded 90°F+ highs during 7 of the first 14 days (52 such days during 1995), including a maximum of 95°F on the 1st. During the latter half of the month, cooler weather prevailed as temperatures averaged more than 3°F below normal at DCA. Clouds and showers kept highs in the upper fifties on the 23rd and 24th (readings more typical of mid-November).

SEPTEMBER 1995 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day			Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmiT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Yr to Date	DepNm
National (DCA)	79.9	62.0	70.9	71.3	-0.4	95/1	52/24*	3.73	3.31	+0.42	24.21	-5.16
Baltimore (BWI)	80.4	60.5	70.5	68.5	+2.0	94/1#	51/24	3.29	3.41	-0.12	23.91	-7.14
Dulles (IAD)	78.9	55.3	67.1	67.1	0	93/6+	44/27	2.74	3.36	-0.62	26.89	-3.63
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	79.4	57.6	68.5	69	-1	94/1	47/27	2.50	3.6	-1.1	27.18	-4.8
Andrew AFB (ADW)	81.7	61.4	71.5	69	+2	97/1	52/11	2.82	3.6	-0.8	27.44	-5.1

Other occurrences: * September 27th; # September 6th; + September 14th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER: *The first frost or freeze.*

October is usually the month when we think about the first frost or freeze to affect the Washington/Baltimore area, especially away from the cities. Below is a list of the dates of the first 32°F or lower reading during the last ten years at DCA and IAD, along with the earliest and latest freezes on record in Washington (city).

Year	First 32°F (or lower) reading		Year	First 32°F (or lower) reading	
	DCA	IAD		DCA	IAD
1994	November 24	October 11	1989	November 18	October 23
1993	November 2	October 1	1988	November 25	October 6
1992	October 20	October 7	1987	November 11	October 9
1991	November 4	October 8	1986	November 13	October 7
1990	November 19	October 20	1985	December 2	October 26
Earliest Freeze: October 10, 1895			Latest Freeze: December 14, 1980		