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August 2008

Inside this issue...

July Review	1
Lightning Safety	1
Climate Summaries	2
WeatherWorks News	2
August Averages	2

July Weather Review

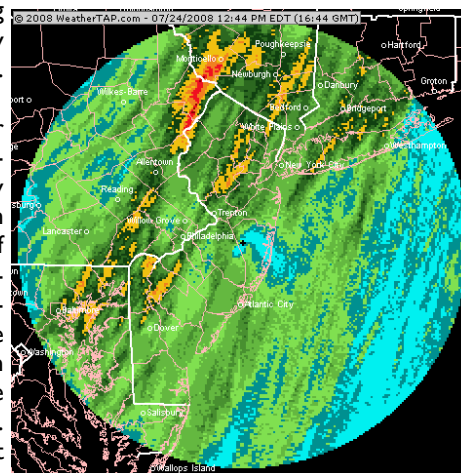
As would be expected, most of the weather headlines revolved around thunderstorms, and unlike June, there were no tornadoes reported in the area (however, a funnel cloud was reported on Long Island in the severe thunderstorms on the 27th). Strong thunderstorms with a very moist air mass combined to produce a couple of heavy rainfall events. There were two separate occasions with 1-3 inch rainfalls across parts of the region, both late in the month; on the 23rd and again on the 27th

The event on the 23rd had the makings to be a prolific rainfall producer. Flood watches were issued for much of the mid-Atlantic and nearby northeastern states due to the prolonged threat for heavy rains. The system produced a round of locally severe weather in the afternoon of the 23rd. There were numer-

ous reports of hail, wind damage and even roadway flooding all the way from Maryland into Southern New England. Most of the intense weather occurred during the late afternoon and evening hours, with lighter and more scattered showers impacting the area in the early morning on July 24.

Just a few days later on the 27th, abnormally high instability led to the evolution of an intense line of showers and thunderstorms that primarily impacted the I-95 corridor from SE PA through the New York City area. Particularly hard hit were parts of Central and Southern NJ where numerous roads

were flooded by slow moving thunderstorms. Additionally, there were countless lightning strikes area wide, and numerous people and structures were struck resulting in at least 1 fatality and several injuries as well as a few fires.



24 Hour Radar Est. Rainfall Ending 7/24/08 12 PM (Dark green: 1" or more of rain... Yellow: 3" or more)

Hurricane Dolly Fact Box



Formed	Jul. 20
Dissipated	Jul. 25
Peak Winds	100 mph
Lowest Pressure	964mb
Deaths	19 (2 U.S.)
Prelim. Damage	\$1.2B (U.S.)

Miscellaneous Facts:

- Est. 125,000 lost power in S. Texas
- 10 - 20 inches of rain fell, but data was inconclusive due to the storm winds

Unexpected Lightning



The far right of the image shows a lightning strike with clear sky directly overhead

Over the past month, there have been a few thunderstorm events with an extreme amount of cloud to ground lightning strikes observed. Unfortunately, this has led to some people being struck and fatally injured. As most of your work or workers are outside and sometimes near electrically-conductive equipment, it is important to know the

dangers of lightning. There is one particular type of lightning that can be very dangerous, because it is unexpected.

"Bolt from the Blue" is a common term used to describe lightning that strikes from the anvil of a cumulonimbus cloud. During powerful thunderstorms, an anvil develops outward from the top of the cloud. This is usually positively charged and can produce lightning. The bolt will typically extend outward and then angle toward the ground. Because the anvil extends out from the storm, lightning can strike a location that is under mostly blue sky, thus creating an unexpected and dangerous strike

One of the precautions you can take is to wait 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder, before resuming outdoor work. A lightning strike 25 miles from the center of a storm has been observed before, so it is important to stay alert regarding not only the weather overhead, but the weather nearby as well.

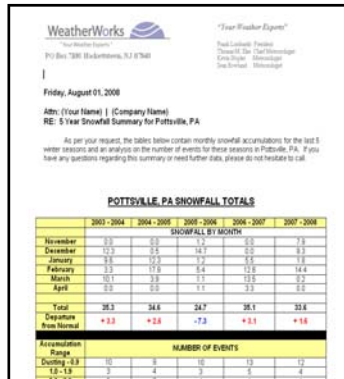
U.S Lightning Fatalities (rank in weather deaths)

2006	47 (4th)
2005	38 (T-3rd)
2004	32 (4th)
2003	43 (3rd)
2002	51 (T-4th)
2001	44 (3rd)

Winter Climate Summaries

Now that the calendar has turned to August, there are only a few short months until the start of the winter season. For those that are contractors, many will be preparing to place bids and proposals to new sites in different locations. The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic are home to many different microclimates and it is important for you to know and understand how this affects snowfall. One helpful tool to utilize while preparing bids & contracts is a climate summary.

Along with other past weather reports that WeatherWorks creates, one of the more popular



To view a sample WeatherWorks climate summary for snowfall, please click [here](#)

products is a climate summary. The report typically features snowfall information such as

monthly totals, departure from average and a breakdown of the number and range of events. Clients can request other information and set up the summary any way they like. WeatherWorks has most of the data in the last 2-5 years in-house, helping to keep the data as town specific as possible.

The climate summaries are also very helpful to analyze for road departments as they can provide an additional insight in budget planning. Clients receive a discounted rate for a weather summary, so feel free to call to request one at 1-800-427-3456.

WeatherWorks News Tidbits

STAFF NEWS

Some of you who have called our office in recent weeks may have noticed a new voice on the other end of the phone. On July 15th, WeatherWorks gladly welcomed Cindy Masotti as the newest member of the staff.

Cindy will become your main point of contact for most routine administrative issues especially billing and account maintenance.

Also, during the midday hours, she will be answering your calls and passing you onto the staff member that can best help you.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

In last month's edition of *The Weather Tracker*, we put out a call for clients to come forward to test our ability to quickly and effectively send text messages as another means to

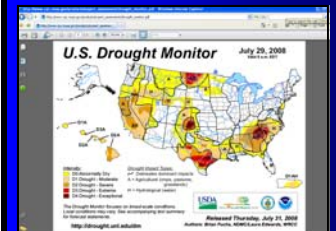
receive your WeatherWorks alerts. First, the product development team would like to thank those that took a few minutes out of their busy schedules to participate.

Most importantly, we are happy to report that the tests were in fact successful. Initial feedback was quite positive. Most testers received their messages in less than a minute and were enthusiastic about taking this new service.

The Dog Days of August marks the time of year when WeatherWorks meteorologists begin looking ahead to the winter in earnest.

In the coming weeks, staff will begin collecting and then analyzing various types of data including: the ever-popular El Nino/La Nina tendencies in the Pacific Ocean, miscellaneous trends observed through the summer season, other correlations that can be made to past weather or other occurrences to the upcoming winter.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH



http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/drought_monitor.pdf

It is that time of year again when the lack of rainfall begins to create some problems. The above link is for the US Drought Monitor webpage.

AUGUST AVERAGES (30 year averages: 1971-2000)						
	Boston, MA (BOS)		Newark, NJ (EWR)		Baltimore, MD (BWI)	
	August 1	August 31	August 1	August 31	August 1	August 31
High Temp	82	77	85	80	87	82
Low Temp	66	62	70	65	66	61
Precip (Mo. Total)	3.37"		4.02"		3.74"	
Snowfall (Mo. Total)	0.0"		0.0"		0.0"	
Sunrise	5:37AM	6:09 AM	5:54 AM	6:23 AM	6:07 AM	6:34 AM
Sunset	8:03 PM	7:19 PM	8:12 PM	7:30 PM	8:18 PM	7:38 PM

August 2008 Temperature Outlook

August looks to turn out to have near normal temperatures. As the table above shows, August begins the seasonal drop in temp, so by late month most of the hot & humid weather diminishes for the season.

August 2008 Precipitation Outlook

On average, expect nearly normal precipitation amounts in August. Like recent months, the troughs will determine how much precip falls. Regardless, look for t-storms to drive the rainfall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 8 SIMA Build a Bid Hartford, CT
- Aug 28 SIMA Webinar: "Snow Strategies for Tough Times"
- Sep 1 Labor Day