

SEPTEMBER 2007

Temperature: Summer-like conditions prevailed the majority of the month across the Washington-Baltimore area. Monthly temperature departures were +2.4°F at DCA, +3.2°F at BWI and +3.9°F at IAD. It was the 4th month out of the last 5 and 14th month out of the last 21 with above normal temperatures at DCA. The heat was especially prevalent at IAD where the airport recorded 10 days with highs at or above 90°F, the 3rd most such days ever recorded in September. In addition, IAD observed its 3rd warmest September on record. BWI recorded 6 days with highs at or above 90°F and DCA 3 such days.

The month brought two pronounced periods of hot conditions. The first occurred from the 3rd-10th when highs soared to 90°F or above daily on all but the 9th (high 89°F) at IAD, including a reading of 94°F on the 7th. The second period of abnormal heat occurred from the 21st-28th, when highs consistently reached 80°F or higher. Readings at 90°F or above occurred at many locations on the 25th and 26th, including BWI and IAD, and again on the 27th at some locations, including IAD. The nights were also relatively warm. DCA's lowest reading of the month was only 50°F. The coolest day of the month occurred on the 16th when highs held in the 60's.

Precipitation: Very dry conditions prevailed with many locations recording an inch or less of rainfall for the month, exacerbating the moderate to severe drought conditions across the local area. Monthly totals were 0.60" at DCA (Dep. Nml.: -3.19"), 0.35" at BWI (Dep. Nml.: -3.63") and 1.40" at IAD (Dep. Nml.: -2.42"). DCA recorded its 5th driest September on record with only 3 days of measurable rainfall (greater or equal to 0.01"), equalling the second fewest on record. BWI's paltry rainfall total yielded its 2nd driest September record. Ironically, many areas recorded greater rainfall in September 2007 than in September 2005, one of the driest months ever recorded and the driest September ever recorded at both DCA and IAD. A federal drought disaster declaration was requested by the governors of Maryland and Virginia by month's end and mandatory water restrictions were imposed in Stafford County, VA, according to press reports.

The month did provide some areas with brief, much needed rainfall. On the 10th, showers and thunderstorms soaked some sections of Prince Georges and Anne Arundel counties and southern Maryland producing more than an inch of rain at some locations. The largest rainfall totals included Bryans Road in Charles County, MD, with 1.44", and Deale in Anne Arundel County, MD, with 1.10". On the 14th, parts of southern Maryland received additional heavy rainfall with totals again greater than 1 inch. The heaviest amounts fell in La Plata in Charles County, with 1.54" and Ridge, St. Mary's County, with 1.47".

Severe weather was reported across areas north and west of the metro area on the 26th and 27th. On the 26th, severe thunderstorms caused flash flooding, thunderstorm wind damage and hail measured up to 7/8" in Martinsburg, WV. On the 27th, Thurmont, MD, reported thunderstorm wind damage. Portions of Virginia received the heaviest rainfall totals from the storm, including 1.82" at Rixeyville, in Culpeper County, while IAD measured its greatest daily rainfall total for the month (0.59").

SEPTEMBER 2007 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)	82.3	63.5	72.9	70.5	+2.4	91/4	50/17	0.60	3.79	-3.19	21.64
Baltimore (BWI)	82.6	58.5	70.6	67.4	+3.2	93/26	44/16	0.35	3.98	-3.63	23.57
Dulles (IAD)	83.8	58.6	71.2	67.3	+3.9	94/7	43/16	1.40	3.82	-2.42	19.04

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 2007? 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
2006	November 4	October 15	2001	December 22*	October 9
2005	November 17	November 11*	2000	November 16	October 8
2004	December 4	October 18	1999	November 18	October 28
2003	November 10	October 3	1998	November 5	October 2
2002	November 27	October 18	1997	November 16	October 2

*Latest date for first freeze ever recorded