

September 2009

Temperatures: The first month of meteorological autumn featured near normal temperatures across the Washington/Baltimore area. Monthly departures were -0.3°F at DCA, -0.8°F at BWI and +1.1°F at IAD. September marked the fourth month in 2009 with subnormal temperatures in Washington, the most in the first nine months of the calendar year since 2002 (see cover graphic). There were no late season heat waves as maximum readings held in the 80s across the region during the warmest days.

Much below normal readings occurred on several days with highs only into the 60s on 6 days at BWI, 5 at IAD and 3 at DCA. Minimum readings were uncomfortably warm on only a couple days, with DCA recording lows above 70°F on the 23rd (71°F) and 24th (73°F) and at IAD on the 24th (72°F). In contrast, temperatures dipped into the 40s in some suburban locations on the 20th and on the final 2 days of the month at BWI and IAD.

Precipitation: While rainfall totals were close to normal (between 3" - 4") across the metro areas, there was significant variance further east and west. DCA reported 3.31" (-0.48") and BWI, 3.48" (-0.50"); in contrast, IAD observed only 1.83" (-1.99"). Meanwhile, areas across northeast Maryland reported monthly amounts over 6". The month's first significant rainfall was localized but heavy. Slow moving showers and thundershowers on the 6th dumped 2.53" in Millersville (Ann Arundel County), resulting in localized reports flash flooding.

The entire region was impacted with two significant events in September. On the 11th, a soaking rain brought copious rainfall to areas of northeast Maryland. Totals included 4.15" in Bel Air and 3.96" in Norrisville, MD (Harford County), leading to flooded roads. In the local area, totals included 1.71" at BWI and 0.80" at DCA; IAD observed only 0.20". On the 26th-27th, the month's second major rain event again brought areas outside the immediate metro area the heaviest precipitation. Totals from this storm included 2.44" in Hightown, (Highland County), and 2.40" at Tye River, VA (Nelson County). Locally, most areas received between 1"-2", including the three major airport: DCA, 1.63"; BWI, 1.31"; and IAD, 1.11".

DCA and IAD have recorded subnormal precipitation each month since September 2008, with the exception of the spring 2009 months, April through June.

SEPTEMBER 2009 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F) Extreme/Day						Precipitation (Inches)				
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Year to Date
National (DCA)	77.9	62.5	70.2	70.5	-0.3	87/5,23	54/29,30	3.31	3.79	-0.48	29.97
Baltimore (BWI)	75.3	58.0	66.6	67.4	-0.8	85/5	47/29,30	3.48	3.98	-0.50	36.33
Dulles (IAD)	77.9	58.9	68.4	67.3	+1.1	89/23	48/29,30	1.83	3.82	-1.99	33.23

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 2009? 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
2008	November 18	October 20	2003	November 10	October 3
2007	November 24	October 29	2002	November 27	October 18
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

*Latest date for first freeze ever recorded