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January 2013 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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January has been a month of big weather changes to say the least. We have had temperatures ranging from near average, to bitterly cold below average temperatures, to record breaking warmth. The first week of January temperatures remained around average for most of the Commonwealth. A weak cold front that had passed through the western part of the state brought light rainfall, while most of central and the eastern parts remained fairly dry. By January 10th, a high pressure system from the Ohio Valley helped to bring above average temperatures to the state. Highs ranged from the 40s and even low 50's in the southernmost counties. By January 14th, much of the state was seeing temperatures in the 50's, with readings of low 60's in southwestern sections near the Pittsburgh area. A series of lows brought moist conditions on the 14th. On the 16th, precipitation fell across much of the state with nearly 4 inches of new snow in the central mountains. In Philadelphia, the precipitation mainly took on the form of rain, receiving nearly 1 inch of rainfall. In days that followed, the state would begin to dry out with temperatures returning to average. By the 22nd, a strong cold front began to move in from Canada. Strong winds and frigid conditions enveloped most of the state with highs barely reaching the teens, and overnight lows in the single digits with wind chill readings approaching -10 to -15 degrees Fahrenheit. On the 26th, snow fell in the southwestern sector of PA with Allegheny and Westmoreland counties receiving nearly 5 inches of new snow. The end of the month brought record breaking warmth to much of the state. On the 29th, a warm front crossed through the state helping to bring above average temperatures. On the 30th, a dramatic warm up has maximums ranging from the upper 50's to the mid and upper 60's. This would not last for long as a strong cold front passed through the state on the 31st bringing with it strong winds and much colder air. As the cold front passed through, temperatures on the 31st were nearly 30 – 35 degrees lower than the previous day.

January averaged near normal precipitation in many sections because of the soggy front on the 30th which also triggered flash flooding in the eastern half of the state. Temperatures, despite the late month chill, still averaged between 1.5 and 3.5 degrees above normal.