

The Pennsylvania Observer

August 31, 2011



August 2011 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

After a period of well above normal warmth and dry conditions across the state of Pennsylvania at the end of July, the first half of August returned to more seasonable temperatures. Towards the middle of the month, these cooler temperatures combined with wetter conditions as a result of a persistent trough and multiple frontal passages over the northeastern United States, with some areas in eastern Pennsylvania seeing near-record amounts of 24 hour precipitation. Philadelphia received 4.84" of rain on the 14th resulting in the third-highest one day precipitation total for the city. Areas farther west experienced showery conditions with the majority of the rain falling in slow-moving, heavier thunderstorms.

In the second half of the month, temperatures remained near, or slightly below seasonal as a few minor frontal boundaries crossed the area, resulting in some scattered strong to severe thunderstorms across the Commonwealth. The main highlight of this time period was the extremely heavy rainfall which fell across the eastern portion of the state associated with Hurricane Irene. The storm progressed northward along the east coast of the US from August 26th-28th. Only 13 days after setting the third highest one day precipitation total record, Philadelphia received 4.55" of rain on August 27th, the 9th highest total at the airport location. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton received 3.23" on August 28th, tying the 10th highest total at that location. In addition, Philadelphia broke their one-month precipitation total record by over 6" with a total of 19.31".

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (observations taken at 8AM EDT) during August 2011 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks of which our office receives routine observations. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EDT)	County
Highest Temperature	York	98°F	August 2nd	York
Lowest Temperature	Bradford	38°F	August 29th	McKean
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Penndel	27.10"	August 1 st – August 31 st	Bucks
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Saegertown	3.19"	August 1st – August 31st	Crawford

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during August, 2011

Flash flooding in Pittsburgh on Friday, August 19, 2011, kills 4 people
<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/aug/19/us-pittsburgh-flash-flooding/>

Rain disrupts play at the Pennsylvania Classic golf tournament in Harrisburg on Saturday, August 6, 2011
http://blog.pennlive.com/patriotnewssports/2011/08/weather_the_story_of_the_day_a.html

5 PA deaths were caused by Irene - 3 from falling trees, one on the turnpike, and one from drowning
<http://www.chron.com/news/article/Hurricane-Irene-blamed-for-5th-Pennsylvania-death-2145645.php>