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September 2009 – Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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August brought some much needed warmth to the Commonwealth for the last full month of summer. Many individuals wondered if this trend would continue as the season slowly shifted to autumn.

During the first week of September, a large surface high pressure system slowly moved from the Great Lakes into the New York area. As a result, temperatures remained fairly low. Temperature departures across the Commonwealth ranged from -10°F (-6°C) to -2°F (-1°C) below average.

By the start of the second week, the high pressure system retreated from the area. A surface trough moved through the southwestern part of Pennsylvania. On Tuesday, precipitation ahead of a low from North Carolina reached areas in the southeastern part of the Commonwealth. Precipitation fell through the end of the week as low moved north along the East Coast. Philadelphia International Airport (KPHL) recorded 1.86” (47.24mm) falling in a 24 hour period on the September 11th. Lehigh Valley International Airport (KABE) received 0.94” (23.88mm) on the 11th and 0.58” (14.73mm) on the 12th. Wilkes-Barre-Scranton International Airport (KAVP) reported 1.02” (25.91mm) on the 12th.

During the third week, high pressure brought a return to dry weather and above average temperatures for the first half of the week. A weak cold front moved down through the Commonwealth from Canada. Scattered showers persisted for several days. By the weekend, high pressure once again settled into the region.

At the start of the fourth week, the high pressure moved off the New England Coast. A small disturbance brought occasional showers to much of the Commonwealth. Temperatures throughout the Keystone State were above normal. In Philadelphia (KPHL), the high temperature recorded was 82°F (28°C) and low of 72°F (22°C) on the 23rd. At Capitol City Airport (KCXY) in Harrisburg, a high of 82°F (28°C) was reached.

By the end of the fourth week, a low approached from the Ohio River Valley. The heaviest rain fell on Saturday, September 26, 2009. At University Park Airport (KUNV), 0.45” (11.43mm) fell. From September 26 – 27, Bradford Regional Airport (KBFD) received 0.68” (17.27mm). During the same time period, Williamsport Regional Airport (KIPT) reported 0.76” (19.30mm). Wet weather would continue into the final few days of September. A strong cold front made its way through the Commonwealth on September 28th ending the spell of mild conditions.

Below is a table with preliminary September 2009 rankings for divisional climate data.

PA Climate Division	Precipitation (1=Wettest; 111=Driest)	Temperature (1=Coldest; 111=Warmest)
1	106	64
2	79	23
3	45	38
4	71	46
5	81	34
6	107	58
7	87	65
8	101	51
9	102	67
10	111	46

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during September 2009 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EDT)	County
Highest Temperature	Shippensburg	87°F	September 24 th	Cumberland
Lowest Temperature	Kane	32°F	September 21 st	McKean
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Safe Harbor Dam	6.37"	-	Lancaster
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Waynesburg	0.87"	-	Greene

Pennsylvania Weather Stories

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<http://www.scrantontimes.com/news/1.287273>

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Sodden summer gives way to, well ...

http://www.mcall.com/news/all-a7_5summer.7028961sep22,0,2482161.story

Summer season in Western Pennsylvania takes a vacation

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_641915.html

Lightning deadliest in over a year

<http://www.examiner.com/x-5181-Jackson-Weather-Examiner~y2009m9d2-United-States-lightning-fatalities-highest-in-over-a-year>