

The Pennsylvania Observer

November 1, 2012



October 2012 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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During the month of October temperatures throughout Pennsylvania were above average. There was a warm period in the beginning of the month around the 2nd through the 5th and another even warmer period that lasted almost the entire second half of the month from the 18th through the 27th. Heating degree days were below average throughout the Commonwealth State as well as most of the Northeast causing natural gas futures to drop in New York commodities markets. There was a below average temperature period in the middle of the month with frost and the first freeze occurring for many around the 12th and 13th. There was a confirmed report of a tornado in Lancaster County on the 19th as well as reports from authorities that the tornado caused a pavilion to collapse in Paradise, Pa injuring 15 people. Tornadoes are very rare for the month of October in Pennsylvania. There have been 670 recorded tornadoes in Pennsylvania since 1950. Precipitation amounts during October, not including the totals from Hurricane Sandy, were below average throughout most of the state except for the northeastern counties where precipitation was near average. When dividing the state into ten regions and getting precipitation data for each region, it can be seen that the farther west you go the more below average the precipitation amounts were for October. However, based on preliminary reports from Cooperative Observers and First Order National Weather Service stations, thirteen daily precipitation totals records were broken on the 29th of October due to Hurricane Sandy. The first significant snows fell in the higher elevations of southwest Pennsylvania on October 30th with more than a foot of snow at Laurel Summit.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during October 2012 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 | Slippery Rock 1 Mi. SSW | 86°F | October 26 th | Butler |
| Lowest Temperature | Clarence | 17°F | October 14 th | Centre |
| Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation | Hanover 5.4 Mi. S | 11.41" | October 1 st -October 31 st | Montgomery |
| Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation | Thompson 3.9 WNW | 3.59" | October 1 st -October 31 st | Susquehanna |
| Greatest Cumulative Snowfall | Laurel Summit | 17.5" | October 1 st -October 31 st | Somerset |

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during October, 2012

Gas price drops

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-10-16/natural-gas-drops-as-mild-u-dot-s-dot-weather-to-crimp-heating-demand>

Tornado report

<http://www.njherald.com/story/19873866/tornado-confirmed-in-pa-pavilion-collapse>

Hurricane Sandy curtails Natl Guard Training

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/10/pennsylvania_national_guard_tr.html

Home Insurance increases in Pennsylvania due to recent storms

<http://triblive.com/news/allegheeny/2618558-74/insurance-rates-weather-increase-billion-pennsylvania-percent-department-erie-insurers#axzz2AgVaWwwg>