

Narrative Summary – February 2016

February 2016 was warmer than normal, averaging 43.4°F, 5.2° above normal (38.2°F). The warmest February (2015) averaged 45.3°F. The coldest February (1956) averaged 25.6°F. Many temperature records were threatened, but none were broken during February 2016.

Precipitation for February 2016 totaled 0.27 inches, 39% of normal (0.70 inch). The wettest February (1961) received 2.10 inches, and the driest (1967 and 1988) received only a trace amount. The snowfall recorded during the month was 0.02 inches, compared to a normal of 2.3 inches, and a maximum snowfall of 17.0 inches (1989). Snowfall for the 2015-2016 season, through February is 14.1 inches, compared to a normal of 14.8 inches.

The average wind speed for February 2016 was 7.1 miles per hour (mph), which was 0.2 mph above normal (6.9 mph). The windiest February on record (1999) averaged 11.1 mph, while the February with the lightest winds (1963) averaged 4.6 mph. The peak gust for February 2016 was 53 mph on February 28.

The 2015-2016 winter season (December 2015, January and February 2016) temperature was above normal (34.2), averaging 37.6°F, which makes this winter season the ninth warmest on record. The warmest winter (1966-67) averaged 40.6°F, while the coldest (1948-49) averaged 24.2°F. Winter season precipitation totaled 3.78 inches, 133% of normal (2.84 inches). The wettest winter (1996-97) received 5.45 inches, while the driest (1946-47) received 0.70 inches.

The monthly climatological data summaries, as well as other information, are available on the Internet.

Address: <http://www.hanford.gov/hms>

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Note: The data in this summary pertains specifically to the Hanford Meteorology Station (HMS), which is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Richland, WA. No attempt should be made to infer meteorological conditions at other locations from these data.