Narrative Summary – August 2018

August 2018 was slightly warmer than normal, averaging 76.5°F, 0.7° above normal (75.8°F). The hottest August (1967) averaged 81.5°F, while the coolest (1964) averaged 69.8°F. There were 19 days in August with maximum temperatures ≥90°F compared to an August normal of 18 days. There have been 56 days this year with maximum temperatures ≥90°F compared to a normal (through August) of 50 days. There were 7 days in August with maximum temperatures ≥100°F compared to an August normal of 5 days. There have been 24 days this summer (June – August) with maximum temperatures ≥100°F compared to a normal of 12 days. This is the 6th most number of days ≥100°F for any summer on record. The following temperature record was established during August 2018:

Date	Category	New Record	Old Record	Year
10	High Maximum	109	109	1996+ (Tie)

Precipitation for August 2018 totaled 0.01 inches, 6% of normal (0.18 inch). The wettest August (1977) received 1.36 inches, while the driest (1955 and 1988) received no precipitation. Total precipitation for 2018 (through August) is 4.10 inches, 98% of normal (4.19 inches).

The average wind speed for August 2018 was 8.2 miles per hour (mph), which was 0.2 mph above normal (8.0 mph). The windiest August (1996) averaged 9.5 mph, while the August with the lightest winds (1956) averaged 6.0 mph. The peak gust for August 2018 was from the northwest at 41 mph on August 23. The record wind gust for August was 66 mph in 1961.

The summer season of 2018 (June - August) was warmer than normal, averaging 75.6°F, 1.4° above normal (74.2°F). The coolest summer (1980) averaged 70.2°F. The warmest summer (2015) averaged 79.4°F. The summer's highest maximum temperature was 109°F on August 10. The highest maximum temperature ever recorded at the Hanford Meteorology Station was 113°F (recorded on August 4, 1961, July 13, 2002, and July 23, 2006). Summer season precipitation totaled 0.24 inches, 26% of normal (0.92 inch). This makes the summer of 2018 the 8th driest on record. The wettest summer (1950) received 2.99 inches, while the driest (1973) received only 0.03 inch. The 0.01 inches received on Aug 27 broke a streak of 77 straight days without measureable precipitation (last received on June 10). This ties for the 2nd longest such streak on record. The record longest streak without measureable precipitation is 81 days (June 28 – September 15, 1981). The longest streak without any precipitation (not even a trace) is 67 days (July 14 – September 17, 1988)

August 2018 can be best described as dry and smoky. Numerous wild fires in the Pacific Northwest caused several smoky days. Smoke on 11 of those days caused reduced visibilities of 6 miles or less, which is a record number of days for any month. The previous such record (set just last year) was 10 days in August of 2017. The lowest visibility for August 2018 was 1/2 of a mile on August 4 (for over 8 straight hours). The summer of 2018 had a notable hot streak from July into August. The maximum temperature was ≥90°F for 32 consecutive days

(July 11 – August 11) and ≥100°F for 10 consecutive days (July 23 – Aug 1).

The monthly climatological data summaries, as well as other information, are available on the Internet. Address: http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hms

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Note: The data in this summary pertain 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.