

Narrative Summary – February 2017

February 2017 was colder than normal, averaging 32.4°F, which is 5.8° below normal (38.2°F). This makes February 2017 the ninth coldest February on record. There was only one day in February 2017 that was above normal. The warmest February (2015) averaged 45.3°F. The coldest February (1956) averaged 25.6°F. There were no daily temperature records established during February 2017.

Precipitation for February 2017 totaled 1.78 inches, which is 254% of normal (0.70 inch). This makes February 2017 the second wettest February on record. The wettest February (1961) received 2.10 inches, and the driest (1967 and 1988) received only a trace amount. Snowfall for February 2017 totaled 9.0 inches, compared to a normal of 2.3 inches. This makes February 2017 the sixth snowiest February on record. The snowiest February had 17.0 inches (1989). Snowfall for the 2016-2017 season through February is 29.0 inches, compared to a normal of 15.3 inches. This makes the 2016-17 season tied for the seventh snowiest on record. The snowiest season had 56.1" (1992-93). February snow depth reached 12.0 inches on February 8. This tied for the sixth deepest snow depth for any month. The record for deepest snow depth is 15.6 inches on Dec 2, 1985.

The average wind speed for February 2017 was 7.2 miles per hour (mph), which is 0.3 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 2017 was from the SW at 53 mph on February 10.

The 2016-17 winter season (December through February) was colder than normal, averaging 27.1°F, which is 7.2°F below normal (34.3°F). This makes the 2016-17 winter season the sixth coldest on record. The warmest winter season (1966-67) averaged 40.6°F, while the coldest (1948-49) averaged 24.2°F. Winter season precipitation (December through February) totaled 3.68 inches, 130% of normal (2.84 inches). The wettest winter season (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/page.cfm/hms>

Or contact:

HMS staff at 373-2716 or email: hms@rl.gov

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.