

## Narrative Summary – February 2019

February 2019 was much colder than normal, averaging 24.8°F, which is 13.4°F below normal (38.2°F).

February 2019 set a record for the coldest February on record. Previous record was 25.6°F (1956). Only one day in February was above normal (Feb 3). The warmest February (2015) averaged 45.3°F.

The following daily temperatures records were established during February 2019.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>New Record</u>	<u>Old Record</u>	<u>Year</u>
10	Low Maximum	24	30	2014+
11	Low Maximum	21	27	1954
19	Low Maximum	27	28	1956
23	Low Maximum	33	34	1993+

Precipitation for February 2019 totaled 1.65 inches, which is 236% of normal (0.70 inch). February 2019 is the fourth wettest February on record. The wettest February (1961) received 2.10 inches, while the driest February (1967 and 1988) received only a trace amount. Snowfall for February 2019 totaled 25.3 inches, compared to a normal of 2.3 inches. February 2019 is the snowiest February on record, and the snowiest for any month. The previous February record was 17.0 inches (1989), and the previous record for any month was 23.4 inches (January 1950). Snowfall for the 2018-19 season through February is 27.7 inches, which is 187% of normal (14.8) inches. This makes the 2018-19 season the fourth snowiest on record. The snowiest season (1992-93) had 56.1 inches, while the least snowy season (1957-58) had 0.3 inches. The snow depth of 14.0 inches reached on February 27 is a record for February, and is the fifth deepest snow depth recorded for any month. The previous record snow depth for February was 12.0 inches (2017).

The average wind speed for February 2019 was 6.9 miles per hour (mph), which is normal. The windiest February (1999) averaged 11.1 mph, while the least windy February (1963) averaged 4.6 mph. The peak gust for February 2019 was from the NNE at 35 mph on February 9.

The 2018-19 winter season (December through February) was cooler than normal, averaging 32.0°F, which is 2.3°F below normal (34.3°F). 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 3.47 inches, which is 122% of normal (2.84 inches). The wettest winter season (1996-97) received 5.45 inches, while the driest (1946-47) received 0.70 inches.

February 2019 will be remembered for record cold and snow. The highest temperature for February 2019 was only 42°F (February 3), which is a record low for February in regards to the monthly maximum temperature. The previous record for February was 46°F (1969). February 2019 also had eighteen days where the maximum temperature did not rise above freezing. This breaks the previous February record of fifteen such days (1956). The bone chilling weather began with an arctic front on February 3, and then reinforced by another arctic front of February 9. In regards to snow, February 2019 had eighteen days where is snowed.

This breaks the previous record of thirteen days (1956). The snowstorm on February 8-9 was particularly memorable. Snow began in the afternoon on Feb 8 and did not end until the evening of February 9, over thirty hours later. Strong northerly winds developed on Feb 9 gusting 35-55 mph, causing widespread drifting and blowing snow. The Hanford weather station received 5.3 inches of snow during this snowstorm while 12.6 inches fell in Richland.

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](mailto: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.