

Narrative Summary – September 2020

September 2020 was warmer than normal, averaging 68.1°F, 1.7° above normal (66.4°F). This marks the 6th straight month above normal, and 9 out of the last 10 months above normal. The hottest September (1990) averaged 72.4°F, while the coolest (1985) averaged 58.8°F. There were 8 days in September with maximum temperatures $\geq 90^\circ\text{F}$ compared to a normal of 6. There were 61 days this year with maximum temperatures $\geq 90^\circ\text{F}$ compared to a normal of 56 days.

There were no daily temperature record was established in September 2020

Precipitation for September 2020 totaled 0.18 inches, 58% of normal (0.31 inch). The wettest September (1947) received 1.34 inches, while the driest (1991 and 1999) received no precipitation. Total precipitation for 2020 (through September) is 2.81 inches, 62% of normal (4.50 inches). The 0.09 inches received on September 19, ended the streak of 93 days we had going for number of days with only 0.01 inches (June 24 – September 18). Although quite an extended time, this was not the record. The record span with only 0.01” occurred in 2018, with 115 days (June 11 – October 4).

The average wind speed for September 2020 was 7.1 miles per hour (mph), which was 0.2 mph below normal (7.3 mph). The windiest September (1961) averaged 9.2 mph, while the September with the lightest winds (1957) averaged 5.4 mph. The peak gust for September 2020 was from the south-southwest at 50 mph on September 25. The record wind gust for September is 65 mph in 1953.

September 2020 will be remembered for being very smoky for an extended period of time. There were 11 days with visibilities 6 miles or less in September 2020. This set a record for the month of September (previously 8 days in 2012). This also tied the all-time record for any month (August 2018 also had 11 days with visibilities 6 miles or less due to smoke). The episode of smoke that occurred in September 2020 was particularly thick. Visibilities dropped to below $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile on 8 consecutive days (September 11-18), with the lowest reading of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile occurring on September 11.

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: 373-2716 Hanford_Weather_Station@rl.gov

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.

