

## Narrative Summary – December 2009

The average temperature for December 2009 was much cooler than normal, averaging 24.7°F, 7.1° below normal (31.7°F), making it the fifth coolest December on record. The warmest December (1957) averaged 38.5°F, while the coldest (1985) averaged 21.0°F. No temperature records were established during December 2009.

Precipitation for December 2009 totaled 0.71 inches, 64% of normal (1.11 inches). The wettest December (1996) received 3.69 inches, and the driest (1999) received 0.07 inch. Snowfall for December totaled 4.8 inches, compared to a normal of 5.8 inches. The snowiest December on record (1996) received 22.6 inches.

The average wind speed for December 2009 was 5.4 miles per hour (mph), which was 0.7 mph below normal (6.1 mph). The windiest December on record (1968) averaged 8.3 mph, while the December with the lightest winds (1985) averaged 3.3 mph. The peak gust for December 2009 was 46 mph on December 6.

Calendar year 2009 averaged 52.8°F, which was below normal (53.6°F). The warmest years (1992 and 1998) averaged 56.4°F, while the coolest year (1985) averaged 49.6°F. The hottest temperature during 2009 was 109°F on August 1. The coldest temperature was -3°F on December 10. Precipitation for 2009 totaled 5.47 inches, 78% of normal (6.98 inches). The wettest year (1995) received 12.31 inches, while the driest (1976) received 2.99 inches. Calendar year 2009 snowfall totaled 13.9 inches, compared to a normal of 15.4 inches.

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

Address: <http://hms.pnl.gov/>

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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.