

Narrative Summary – January 2012

The average temperature for January 2012 was cooler than normal, 32.3°F, 1.1° below normal (33.4°F). The warmest January (1953) averaged 42.5°F, while the coldest (1950) averaged 12.1°F. There were no daily temperature records set in January 2012.

Precipitation for January 2012 totaled 1.09 inches, 116% of normal (0.94 inches). The wettest January (1970) received 2.47 inches, and the driest (1977) received 0.08 inch. Snowfall for January 2012 totaled a 9.3 inches, compared to a normal of 4.6 inches, and a record maximum snowfall of 23.4 inches (1950). Snowfall for the 2011-2012 snowfall season through January is 11.2 inches, compared to a normal of 12.5 inches.

The all-time record at HMS for the monthly total amount of sleet was 0.7 inches, set in January, 1950. That record was broken in one day (January 19, 2012) with 0.8 inches recorded. By the end of the month, the total had become 1.0 inches.

The average wind speed for January 2012 was 7.3 miles per hour (mph), which was 1.0 mph above normal (6.3 mph). The windiest January on record (1972) averaged 10.3 mph, while the January with the lightest winds (1985) averaged 2.9 mph. The peak gust for January 2012 was 49 mph on January 25. The record wind gust for January was 80 mph in 1972.

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

Address: <http://www.hanford.gov/hms>

Ken Burk 373-3215

HMS Staff 373-2716

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.