

Narrative Summary – March 2009

March 2009 was much cooler than normal, averaging 41.9°F, 4.2° below normal (46.1°F). This makes March 2009 the sixth coolest on record. HMS has not had an average temperature for March below 42.0°F since 1976 (41.4°F). The warmest March (1992) averaged 51.5°F, while the coldest (1955) averaged 39.4°F. The following records were established in March 2009:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>New Record</u>	<u>Old Record</u>	<u>Year</u>
9	Low Minimum	22	22	1994 Tied
10	Low Maximum	34	40	1948
11	Low Minimum	19	28	1950

Precipitation for March 2009 totaled 0.80 inch, 138% of normal (0.58 inch). The wettest March (1957) received 1.86 inches, while the driest (1968) received 0.02 inch. A total of 0.3 inches of snow was recorded during the month, compared to a normal of 0.4 inch, and a maximum snowfall of 4.2 inches (1951). Snowfall for the 2008-2009 snowfall season (through March) is 19.0 inches, compared to a normal of 15.4 inches. Total precipitation for 2009 (through March) is 2.59 inches, 122% of normal (2.13 inches).

The average wind speed for March 2009 was 8.9 miles per hour (mph), which was 1.0 mph above normal (7.9 mph). The windiest March (1964 and 1977) averaged 10.7 mph, while the March with the lightest winds (1958) averaged 5.9 mph. The peak gust for March 2009 was 61 mph on March 15. The record wind gust for March was 70 mph in 1956.

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.