

## Narrative Summary – May 2011

May 2011 was much cooler than normal, averaging 57.2°F, 4.9° below normal (62.1°F). This makes May 2011 the fifth coolest on record. The warmest May (1947) averaged 68.7°F, while the coolest (1984) averaged 56.0°F. There were no temperature records established during May 2011.

Precipitation for May 2011 totaled 1.22 inch, 239% of normal (0.51 inch). This makes May 2011 the seventh wettest on record. The wettest May (1972) received 2.03 inches, while the driest (1992 and earlier years) received only a trace. Total precipitation for 2011 (through May) is 2.90 inches, 89% of normal (3.27 inches).

The average wind speed for May 2011 was 9.0 miles per hour (mph), which was 0.2 mph above normal (8.8 mph). The windiest May (1983) averaged 10.7 mph, while the May with the lightest winds (1957) averaged 5.8 mph. The peak gust for May was 44 mph on May 11. The record wind gust for May was 71 mph in 1948.

The spring season (March, April and May) was cooler than normal, averaging 49.9°F, 4.1° below normal (54.0°F). This makes the spring season of 2011 tied for the second coldest on record. The warmest spring (1992) averaged 58.2°F, while the coolest spring (1955) averaged 48.0°F. Spring season precipitation totaled 2.34 inches, 144% of normal (1.63 inches). The wettest spring (1995) received 3.28 inches, while the driest (1968) received only 0.09 inch.

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 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.