

Narrative Summary – December 2012

The average temperature for December 2012 was warmer than normal, averaging 36.4°F, 5.3° above normal (31.1°F). The warmest December (1957) averaged 38.5°F, while the coldest (1985) averaged 21.0°F. The following temperature records were established during December 2012:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>New Record</u>	<u>Old Record</u>	<u>Year</u>
4	High Minimum	41	41	1952 (Tie)

Precipitation for December 2012 totaled 1.41 inches, 118% of normal (1.20 inches). The wettest December (1996) received 3.69 inches, and the driest (1999) received 0.07 inch. Snowfall for December totaled 4.0 inches, compared to a normal of 5.9 inches. The snowiest December on record (1996) received 22.6 inches.

The average wind speed for December 2012 was 7.4 miles per hour (mph), which was 1.5 mph above normal (5.9 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 2012 was 67 mph on December 17. This is the 5th highest peak gust recorded for the month of December.

Calendar year 2012 averaged 54.4°F, which was above normal (53.9°F). The warmest years (1992 and 1998) averaged 56.4°F, while the coolest year (1985) averaged 49.6°F. The hottest temperature during 2012 was 108°F on July 9th. The coldest temperature was 12°F on January 13th and 19th. Precipitation for 2012 totaled 8.18 inches, 115% of normal (7.14 inches). The wettest year (1995) received 12.31 inches, while the driest (1976) received 2.99 inches.

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

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

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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.