

The Pennsylvania Observer

July 28, 2011



July 2011 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

For the second year in a row, July has been the warmest month of the year. Preliminary numbers for July 2011 places it in the top 5 warmest and depending on the degree of warmth during the last weekend of the month, it could rank as high as third surpassing 1955, but behind 1901 and 1921. The heat came at the expense of rainfall that was sparse for the first three weeks of July. Arguably the state suffered a flash drought as regular showers ceased at the solstice and did not resume again until the last few days of the month. The combination of high heat and persistent dry weather led to drought stress on crops, vegetable, shrubs, trees and lawns. A few clusters of thunderstorms did drench parts of northeastern Pennsylvania where a few communities tallied more than 7 inches of rain for the month.

However, the timing of fronts led to a minimum of rainfall in the central mountains and Allegheny Plateau where less than an inch was measured. Severe weather was quite limited in this hot, dry weather regime as only 1 report of hail and 87 reports of wind damage, the vast majority of which occurred in northeastern Pennsylvania. By far, the hottest weather of the month occurred from July 20-23 as readings reached or exceeded 100F at most stations. The noteworthy records were 3 days at or above 100F at Philadelphia International Airport, a new all-time daily record 106F at Reading, exceeding the previous record of 105F set in August 1918 and the highest minimum temperature ever of 81F at Scranton. In addition, all of the major reporting stations only recorded a handful of day with below average temperatures during this month.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (observations taken at 8AM EDT) during July 2011 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks of which our office receives routine observations. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EDT)	County
Highest Temperature	Reading	106°F	July 22nd	Berks
Lowest Temperature	Kane	42°F	July 1 st	McKean
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Glendon	7.50"	July 1 st – July 28 th	Northampton
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Port Matilda	0.63"	July 1st – July 28th	Centre

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during July, 2011

Heat Wave Fatalities in York

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2011/07/2_york_county_deaths_attribute.html

Rofer on a Hot Tar Roof

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2011/07/pa_roofer_trapped_in_hot_tar_w.html

Drought Stress in Southeast Pennsylvania

<http://timesherald.com/articles/2011/07/26/news/doc4e2ef9b41472e961987610.txt>

Rapid Drop in Reservoir Levels

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_748568.html