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# Sage Winds

National Weather Service - Boise, Idaho

[www.weather.gov/boise](http://www.weather.gov/boise)

SERVING NWS SKYWARN SPOTTERS,  
CO-OP OBSERVERS & COCORAHS OBSERVERS

## Let's Recap: Notable Weather of 2012



### Hurricane Isaac >>>

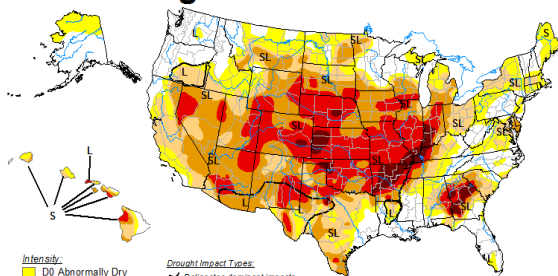
Yet another storm to impact the Caribbean, Isaac killed twenty-nine people in Hispaniola before heading northwestward toward the Gulf coast. On the evening of August 28th, it made landfall near the mouth of the Mississippi River as a Category I hurricane. Isaac caused forty-two fatalities and cost \$2.3 billion.



### <<< Hurricane Sandy

One of the most talked about storms of the year, Sandy moved north across the Caribbean, skirted along the Floridian and Carolinian coastlines, then hammered the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast in late October. Sandy, which peaked as a Category II hurricane, caused more than \$65 billion in damage, but the real toll was in the number of American and Caribbean lives lost— 253.

### U.S. Drought Monitor July 31, 2012



**Intensity:**  
D0 Abnormally Dry  
D1 Drought - Moderate  
D2 Drought - Severe  
D3 Drought - Extreme  
D4 Drought - Exceptional

**Drought Impact Types:**  
S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)  
L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



Released Thursday, August 2, 2012

Author: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

### <<< Central U.S. Heat Wave/Drought

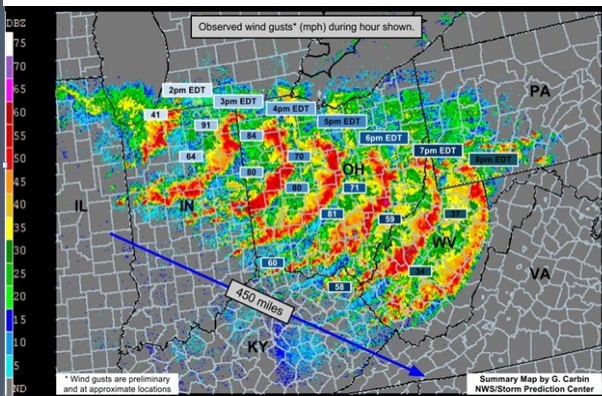
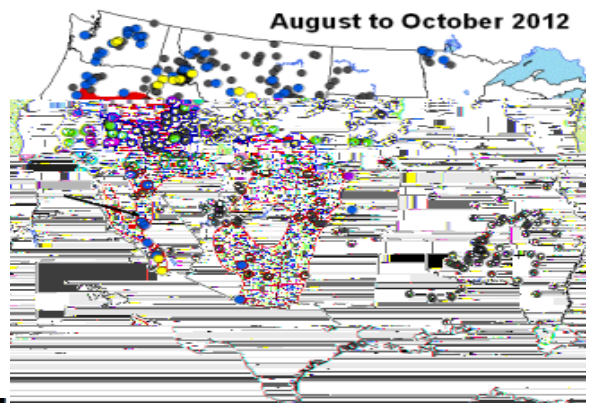
A strong ridge of high pressure remained nearly stationary over the Central U.S. through the whole of the summer. Subsequently, moisture-rich weather systems were steered off to the east and west, and the Heartland remained exceptionally hot and bone dry. As of July 31, 2012, over half of the U.S. was drought-stricken, with nearly twenty percent falling under the definition of extreme drought.

24-HR SPOTTER HOTLINE: 1-800-882-1428

# Notable Weather of 2012, cont'd

## 2012 Wildfires >>>

Unseasonably warm and dry conditions expanded westward as summer progressed, and wildfires gradually began to increase in size and intensity. Thirty-five wildfires exceeded 50,000 acres this fire season—of those thirty-five, six were in our local forecast area. Each dot on the image at right depicts the location of a wildfire between August and October.



## <<< Ohio Valley/Mid-Atlantic Derecho

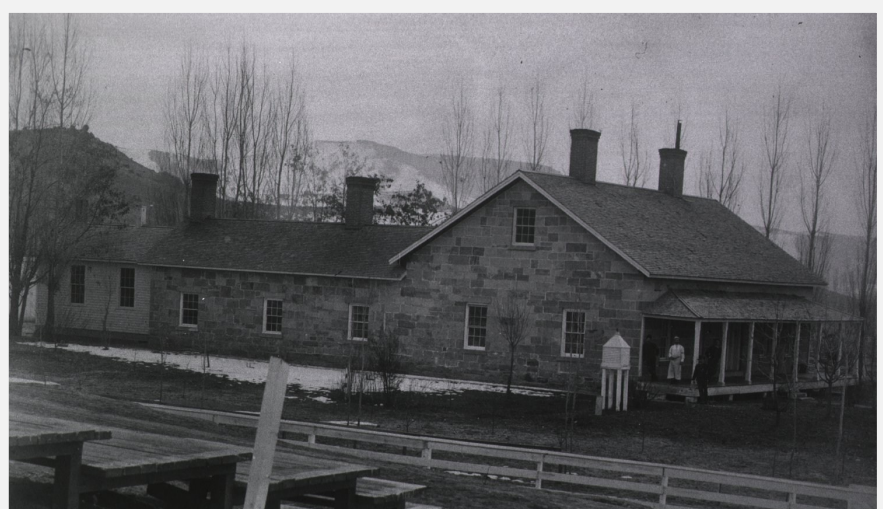
In late June, a [derecho](#) developed over north-west Indiana then proceeded to move south-eastward across the Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic. Severe winds and associated wind damage extended from Indiana east to Virginia. The strongest recorded wind gust (91 mph) was measured in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

# Blast From the Past

The historical picture at right captures one of Idaho's very first weather stations. It's presumed to have been taken sometime between 1880 and 1895 at Fort Boise's Post Hospital. The hospital's Post Surgeon acted as the primary observer.

If you examine the image more closely (click the image to be linked to a higher resolution image), you can see the Post Surgeon, as well as a [cotton region shelter](#) and an eight-inch rain gauge.

A big thanks goes out to WFO-BOI meteorol-



ogist, Josh Smith, for unearthing this interesting picture!



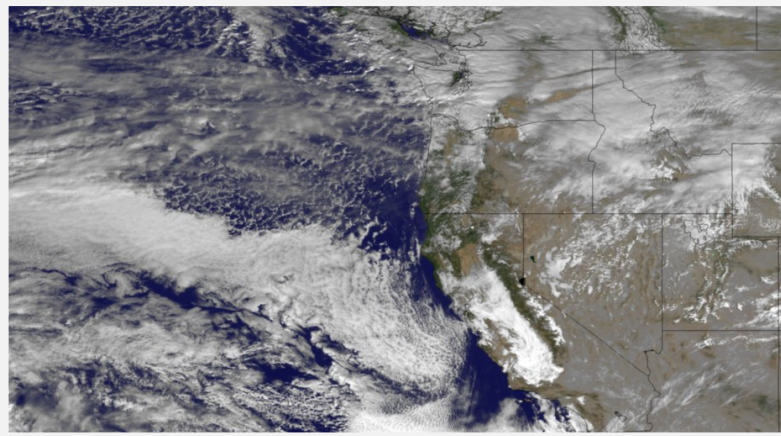
BOI.SPOTTER@NOAA.GOV

# Weather In The News

[2012 National Weather Service Storm-Based Warnings \(NWS YouTube\)](#)

[2012 Tornado Summary \(NWS' Storm Prediction Center\)](#)

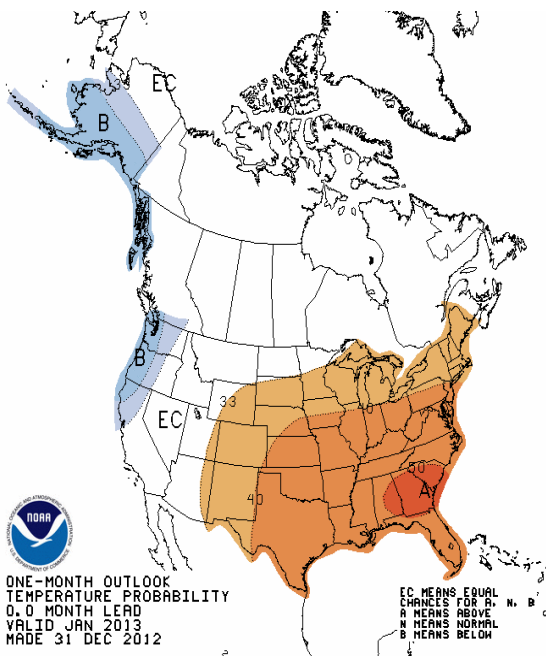
[Extreme Weather of the Week \(Huffington Post\)](#)



[Alaska Gets All Clear After Quake and Tsunami Alert](#)

[Summary of Midwestern Blizzard \(NWS\)](#)

## January Outlook



Temperature Outlook <<

Precipitation Outlook >>

