

OCTOBER 2006

Temperature: Subnormal temperatures continued for the second consecutive month across the Washington/Baltimore area, yielding the coolest September-October since 1988 in Washington (see graphic). Monthly temperature deficits were -1.5°F at DCA, -0.3°F at BWI, and -0.1°F at IAD. DCA recorded 19 days with at or below normal temperatures marking the coolest October since 1999. October brought the area frequent periods with cloudiness and rainfall resulting in numerous days with much below normal highs. DCA observed 8 days with highs in the 50's, the most (tied with 2005 and 1997) since 1988.

Most suburban locations, especially north and west of the metro areas, marked their first freeze of the season on the 13th, including IAD at 31°F and BWI at 32°F. This is in sharp contrast to 2005 when IAD recorded its first freeze on November 11. Nights were chilly across the area with minimum readings in the 30's at IAD on 13 nights, at BWI on 11 and DCA on 5. Warm conditions were mainly confined to the beginning and end of the month. Eight of the first 10 days recorded highs at or above 70°F, including highs at or above 80°F on the 3rd and 4th at most locations and on the 10th in some areas, including IAD (80°F). DCA's high of 73°F on the 31st marked the fourth consecutive year the maximum temperature has been 70°F or higher on Halloween.

Precipitation: Rainfall was well above normal across the region with totals generally in the 5" to 6" range, resulting in the fourth October in the past five years with above normal amounts. At the three major airports, monthly totals were 5.75" at BWI (+2.59"), 5.06" at DCA (+1.84") and 4.92" at IAD (+1.45"). The majority of the precipitation fell during three major storms. The first system impacted the area on the 6th and 7th and brought most of the area 1" to 2", including 2.05" at DCA. Heavier amounts were measured across Southern Maryland, including 4.2" in Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, and totals of 5"-8" across Augusta and Albemarle Counties, VA. The second significant storm occurred 10 days later (17th) when an all day rain brought up to an inch of precipitation across the region (0.99" at BWI). The month's final storm system arrived on the 27th-28th and brought another soaking rain to the area with 1.00"- 2.50" totals common. BWI measured the highest total of the three major airports with 2.26". The September-October 2006 period was the wettest since 1979 at IAD (fifth wettest overall) with 11.94". The period was the wettest since 1999 at DCA with 11.37" and BWI (3rd wettest overall) with 13.31".

Wind: The month was also noted for several strong wind events. Strong and gusty winds were observed on the 6th, 7th, 20th and 28th. On the 20th, winds gusted as high as 44 mph in Middletown, in Frederick County, MD. On the 28th, winds gusted up to 46 mph at BWI and IAD and 45 mph at DCA. According to press reports, as many as 20,000 customers lost power during this wind event.

OCTOBER 2006 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In.)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr. to Date
National (DCA)	66.2	48.4	57.3	58.8	-1.5	82/4	38/15 ¹	5.06	3.22	+1.84	41.05
Baltimore (BWI)	65.4	44.9	55.1	55.4	-0.3	82/4	32/14 ¹	5.75	3.16	+2.59	35.11
Dulles (IAD)	65.5	44.3	54.9	55.0	-0.1	83/4	31/15 ¹	4.82	3.37	+1.45	38.83
Andrews (ADW)	65.5	45.6	55.6	N/A	N/A	82/4	32/13	4.35	3.60	+1.75	30.40

Other Occurrences: 14, 15, 30

Looking Ahead to November: When will the first snow fall? In Washington, the largest single November snow event occurred in 1987 when 11.5" blanketed DCA. This event tied December 17, 1932, as the greatest single snowfall event during astronomical autumn in Washington. In the last 10 years, the first snow has fallen between early December and late January, except in 1997-98 when there was no snowfall of more than 1 inch. The earliest snows (>1") in Washington, D.C., fell on October 30, 1925, (2.2") and October 20, 1940, (1.4"). The earliest measurable snow ever recorded at DCA fell on October 10, 1979, (0.3"). DCA recorded no significant snowfall (total > 0.1") in the 1997-98 and 1972-73 seasons.

Snow Season First 1" (or greater) Snowfall at DCA

2005-2006	December 5
2004-2005	January 19
2003-2004	December 4
2002-2003	December 5
2001-2002	January 19

Snow Season First 1" (or greater) Snowfall at DCA

2000-2001	December 19
1999-2000	January 20
1998-1999	January 8
1997-1998	(No 1" amount recorded)
1996-1997	January 9