

RECENT RECORD *COLD* PERIODS ACROSS THE GLOBE

A Sampling from the News

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Writes one commentator, "In spite of the records, enlightened and concerned journalists immediately explain to us that the cooler weather and fewer hurricanes do not lessen global warming trends because weather is not climate, just like religion is not faith.

More precisely, weather is *only* climate when it's getting *warmer* and when the hurricane frequency *increases*.

Whenever the weather is getting cooler and the hurricane rate is plummeting by 70 percent from the previous year, weather is no longer climate." The question is how long are journalists going to continue believing this shallow sophism?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| South Florida sets batch of cold records | 4 |
| Cold demolishes 1948 record in Yukon | 5 |
| Canadian ski slopes forced to close due to cold | 6 |
| Record snowfall in British Columbia | 8 |
| British Columbia snowfall record | 9 |
| Sydney coldest in 100 years | 11 |
| A cold, wet October | 12 |
| Record cold in South Carolina | 13 |
| Record earliest cold in Charlotte, NC | 13 |

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S. Fla. sets batch of cold records

http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/local/states/florida/counties/broward_county/16080282.htm

BY MEL FRISHMAN

It was only Mickey Mouse snow -- but there indeed were snowflakes in Central Florida Wednesday, for the first time in three years. The National Weather Service called it a "very light dusting" and said it was not expected to repeat today.

In South Florida, sun and warmth are already returning -- think 80s by Saturday.

"There are no more cold blasts on the November horizon for South Florida," weather service specialist Bob Ebaugh said Wednesday.

Five record lows for Nov. 22 were set in South Florida in the early morning hours of Wednesday, the coldest readings in the area since Feb. 14:

- 46 in Hollywood (the old low: 47 in 2000).
- 40 in Pompano Beach (the previous low: 43 in 1952).
- 48 in Miami Beach (the old low: 50 in 1944).
- 40 in West Palm Beach (the old low: 41 in 1914).
- 35 in Belle Glade (the old low: 40 in 1981).

Also, the mercury only reached the low 60s Tuesday and set three South Florida marks for the coolest-ever high readings on Nov. 21:

- 64 in Fort Lauderdale (old record: 66 in 1968)
- 63 in Miami Beach (previous mark: 69, also in 1968)
- 63 in West Palm Beach (old record: 65 in 1952).

It was a different story in Central Florida, where there were snowflakes mixed with rain Tuesday night in Orange, Lake, Seminole and Volusia counties.

"It's not uncommon for us to get a dusting every few years or so, but we never get any kind of accumulations," weather service forecaster Matt Bragaw told The Associated Press.

Bragaw said the most significant snow events in Florida in recent history were in 1977, when snow fell on Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach; 1989, when North and Central Florida had a big freeze, and the 1993 storm that socked the Southeastern United States.

The Florida Panhandle got a snow dusting Christmas season in 2004. In 2003, snowflakes fell over Brevard and Volusia counties.

The Thanksgiving Day forecast for South Florida: mostly sunny, highs in the 70s, lows in the 60s.

Temperatures here are expected to gradually climb before reaching 80 on Saturday and Sunday.

Cold demolishes 1948 record in Yukon

<http://www.whitehorsestar.com/auth.php?r=45126>

By Matthew Grant

Today is the coldest November day on record in Whitehorse.

Bill Miller, with Environment Canada's local weather office, said the mercury dropped to -41 C this morning, making it the coldest November temperature ever recorded. "This is the coldest November day on record," he said in an interview this morning. The previous record, Miller said, was Nov. 27, 1948, when the temperature was -40.6 C.

Temperatures began being recorded in the Yukon in 1942.

The reason for the cold snap, Miller said, is a high-pressure system settling in the territory which is centred in Ross River. That community has seen temperatures in the -50s.

The cold has been affecting residents across the city this morning.

Ryan Weibe of Fireweed Heating and Plumbing said his company is having difficulties keeping up with the volume of calls coming in.

"Today, this has been a really busy place. The phone literally hasn't stopped ringing since 7:30 a.m.

"I couldn't even tell you how many calls we've had," Weibe said.

The main complaints, he said, have been failing furnaces and frozen pipes.

James MacDonald, Whitehorse Taxi's dispatcher, said cab drivers have also seen an huge increase in business.

"I haven't been able to catch up since I came in this morning."
Given the volume of calls, he said, people looking for a taxi could bank on waiting about 30 minutes.

Amy Funk, with Superior Towing, said her company's phone has also been ringing off the hook.

"Our business has gone up big-time," she said.

"Boosting vehicles, and trying to get vehicles into shops to thaw out is most of what we've been doing; people's cars are just frozen.

"I'd say on days like this, our business more than doubles."

Val Pike, the spokeswoman for Whitehorse General Hospital, said emergency room numbers have actually dropped with the cold weather.

"Our numbers here are half what they usually are," she said.

"We usually get about 90 to 100 people in a 24-hour period. Yesterday, I counted half that - 49 people."

George White, the city's maintenance manager, said most municipal vehicles are not going out today due to the cold weather.

"We don't send out anything on days like today that we don't have to," White said.
"The steel in this weather breaks too easily."

White said city graders are being held back, with sanding trucks and the bus fleet being some of the only vehicles being sent out.

Miller said this month has been one of the coldest Novembers since temperatures began being recorded, with the average temperature this month coming in at -19.3 C.

The coldest, he added, was November 1973, when the average was -19.9 C.
Miller said Yukoners could start expecting temperatures to start climbing to single digits by the end of the week.

"Things are starting to change," he said explaining that warmer air from the Gulf of Alaska would be bringing temperatures in the city up to -7 C or -5 C by Thursday or Friday.

"It's going to start warming up as the week progresses," he said.
"It looks like for the next couple of weeks, we're not going into the deep freeze."

Canadian ski slopes forced to close in November because of record – COLD!

Winter chill nearing record lows

<http://calsun.canoe.ca/News/Alberta/2006/11/27/2517071.html>

By TARINA WHITE, CALGARY SUN

The arctic deep freeze trapping Calgary is on track to break a 110-year-old weather record tomorrow, but the bitter cold is expected to ease in the coming days.

With a forecast low of -27 C tomorrow, Environment Canada meteorologist Ross Macdonald said Calgary could break the -27 C record set on this day in 1896.

But factoring in the windchill, it will feel more like -38 C tomorrow — slightly warmer than the -40 C windchill today, said Macdonald.

"I wouldn't break out the shorts and go sunbathing right now," he joked.

"Bundle up."

The recent frigid weather is a far cry from the city's average late November temperatures.

Macdonald said the normal daytime high at this time of year is 0 C, with a low of -11 C.

"The last time it was really this cold in November was about 10 years ago," he said.

"We've hit rock bottom."

It's even been too frosty to ski, with Canada Olympic Park shutting down the hill yesterday for the safety of its guests.

Spokesman Chris Dornan said to his knowledge it's the first year the weather has forced the slope to close in November.

"It's normally in January or February," he said.

Meanwhile, blowing snow likely contributed to a crash near Sylvan Lake today that claimed the life of a 42-year-old motorist.

The victim's pick-up truck collided with a waste disposal truck near the intersection of Highway 11 and Secondary Highway 766.

The other driver escaped unscathed.

And the icy snap has the Calgary Humane Society scrambling to respond to an avalanche of calls from residents concerned about distressed animals left in the cold without proper shelter, said spokeswoman Cheryl Wallach.

"The Calgary Humane Society is calling on all Calgary pet owners to use common sense and not leave animals outside without adequate shelter," she said.

The frigid weather is expected to improve by Thursday, with a predicted daytime high of -1 C, said Macdonald.

But by the weekend, he said the mercury should drop to -8 C, and it's expected to continue to plummet next week.

Nanaimo, British Columbia had a record daily snow for November and 56 cm for the weekend

<http://www.nanaimobulletin.com/portalscode/list.cgi?paper=51&cat=23&id=780761&more=>

Nanaimo set a new daily snowfall record in November this weekend.

The snow started falling Saturday afternoon and continued Monday morning, totalling 56 centimetres accumulation over the weekend.

The previous record was 32.9 cm, set on Nov. 1, 1984.

"We've hit a new November daily snowfall record," said Lisa Coldwells, meteorologist with Environment Canada.

The highest daily snowfall ever recorded was on Feb. 12, 1975, when 73.7 cm fell.

The snowfall contributed to 18 vehicle accidents over the weekend, said Nanaimo RCMP spokeswoman Const. Jen Allan.

"It's fairly consistent with this type of weather," Allan said. "A lot of people stayed home."

Of those 18 accidents, only one included an injury where one person was sent to hospital, two included damage over \$1,000 and 15 caused damage under \$1,000.

"Drivers need to take it very slowly," Allan said.

And the winter weather isn't expected to let up in the next few days.



The forecast from Environment Canada predicts the weather will clear slightly today, paving the way for cold temperatures of -5 C during the day.

Factor in winds of 15 km/h and the temperature will feel like -18 C.

"We're going to get a blast of cold, Arctic air," Coldwells said. "It's going to send temperatures plummeting."

It doesn't get any better on Wednesday (Nov. 29) as the snow is expected to return, with temperatures reaching a high of -4 C and a low of -11 C. Two to 5 cm of snow is expected Wednesday, plus another five to 10 cm on Thursday (Nov. 30).

That will add up to 15 cm to the snow on the ground, as the temperature is not expected to get above freezing until at least Friday. Even then it's only expected to warm to 1 or 2 C.

"The cold air is going to stay," Coldwells said.

With the snow expected to continue, Nanaimo RCMP is advising people to stay off the roads.

"We're encouraging drivers to stay home if they don't have to go anywhere," Allan said.

If people must drive, be aware of the slippery road conditions and adjust speed accordingly.

British Columbia breaks snowfall record

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20061128.WEATHER28/TPStory/National>

Cold cited in four Alberta deaths

B.C. shovels out, Southern Ontario basks as weather patterns broken across Canada

DAWN WALTON and ROBERT MATAS

CALGARY, VANCOUVER -- Relentless sub-zero temperatures are now being blamed for contributing to the deaths of four people in Alberta who were either living on the street or didn't have appropriate permanent shelter.

As wind chill values dipped near -40 C across the province under a cold spell expected to last for days longer, RCMP said yesterday a 38-year-old man died in his small camper trailer in Bonnyville, about 250 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, likely succumbing to carbon-monoxide poisoning from using a propane heater without proper ventilation.

Police said the man, who was found dead on Sunday, had been living in the trailer for the past few months. Two people who were living in a school bus on a property in Spruce Grove, west of Edmonton, were found frozen solid last Thursday in similar circumstances.

Mounties said the 43-year-old man and 38-year-old woman likely also were overcome by carbon monoxide from the heater they were using.

On Saturday, a homeless man suffering from cardiac arrest and hypothermia was spotted on a Calgary street. He died in hospital.

"It's pretty disastrous," said Dermot Baldwin, executive director of the Calgary Drop-In Centre, which is temporary home to 1,100 people a night and is turning people away despite having covered every spare inch of floor with bedding. Advocates for the homeless said no level of government has done enough to provide shelter for the growing population that needs it.

"They don't need this bad press around people dying when we've been saying for a year that's going to happen," Mr. Baldwin said.

The Calgary Humane Society has been fielding continuous calls for the past couple of days about dogs and cats being seen outside without appropriate shelter, which is required by the law.

People think the animals are protected because they have fur, said spokeswoman Cheryl Wallach, ". . . [But] when the weather get this extreme, their fur is not adequate."

The city opened the Calgary Stampede grandstand to the homeless on the weekend, but yesterday the federal New Democratic Party called on Ottawa to step in.

"After 13 years of what we saw from the Liberals, the people helping the homeless are stretching absolutely every penny to try and prevent the tidal waves of death that happen when we have these cold snaps," NDP Leader Jack Layton said during Question Period.

Much of Western Canada is in the clutches of an extremely large and dense pool of cold air that sat over Yukon for the past few weeks before moving south in the form of a high-pressure system stretching from the Prairies to Vancouver Island, said Environment Canada meteorologist Lisa Coldwells.

While rain normally would fall over Vancouver at this time of year, the moisture brought in from the Pacific Ocean and warm air from Hawaii is hitting the cold air mass and turning what typically would be 20 to 50 millimetres of rain into huge amounts of snow.

"Unfortunately, Vancouver just doesn't have the experience with these types of snowstorms," Ms. Coldwells said. "We're not going to get a break. That's the unfortunate part."

Still, in British Columbia, thousands of students celebrated the record-breaking snowfall yesterday by zooming down nearby ski hills, building snow forts and snowmen and tobogganing in parks.

Abbotsford felt the brunt of the storm, with 41 centimetres on Sunday. *The snowfall set a new one-day storm record for November, far surpassing the old record of 31.8 centimetres in 1975.*

Vancouver received 19 centimetres on Sunday, which was not a record-breaker. However, the storm came on the heels of unprecedented heavy rain. Vancouver has received 468.2 millimetres of precipitation so far in November, surpassing the previous record of 420.4 millimetres set in 1983.

"We had wind, rain and now snow to top off November," Environment Canada meteorologist Terri Lang said. "It's been a heck of a month for weather."

Most schools across B.C.'s Lower Mainland were closed yesterday, but students at schools that remained open simply took the day off.

"It's just phenomenal," said Kent Rideout, director of the ski and snowboard school at Cypress Mountain. "If you are a serious skier, this is exactly the kind of conditions you wait for. . . . All the keeners are coming up here."

Meanwhile, B.C. Hydro continued to work yesterday on restoring power to about 81,000 households in the southwestern part of the province that were left in the dark by the snowstorm. Most of the outages were expected to be repaired by evening.

With the temperature last night expected to hit -7, the Salvation Army in Vancouver moved to a Level 3 extreme cold weather alert for homeless people and those who rely on community-run shelters for housing.

While Western Canada lingers in a trough of wintery weather, the weather pattern has left Ontario basking in a corresponding upper ridge of unseasonably warm temperatures in the teens.

"Usually at this time of the year they're sitting in the trough, while we have the ridge," said Vancouver-based Ms. Coldwells.

Sydney Australia sees coldest November day in 100 years

November 16, 2006 08:23am

SYDNEY today recorded its lowest minimum temperature in November for more than 100 years - with the mercury dropping as low as 8C today.

Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Rob Webb said it was 8.3C about 5.45am (AEDT).

The temperature had not been that low in November since 1905.

The average minimum low for the month is about 15C.

The weather was expected to get slightly warmer with a top of 15C forecast, although this is well below the average November maximum of 24C.

"This has only happened four or five times in the past to have a maximum that low," Mr Webb said

"Statewide we haven't got the records yet but there is probably a handful of records with some areas breaking 20- or 30-year records for minimum November temperatures."

Temperatures as low as zero were recorded in the Blue Mountains where firefighters are battling two blazes.

Strong winds were expected to make conditions difficult for crews until they drop off later in the day.

A cold morning tomorrow is forecast for most of the state but it should get warmer through the day.

"After a frosty start it should back away to a more typical summer pattern with temperatures to average or even above average across NSW," Mr Webb said.

A cold, wet October

<http://www.reviewatlas.com/articles/2006/11/16/news/local/news2.txt>

By Stacey Creasy
Thursday, November 16, 2006 3:05 PM CST

SPRINGFIELD - October in Illinois was the *ninth coldest October on the record books*, according to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The below normal temperatures forced home heating demands to rise by 38 percent, which is not a good sign since Warren County residents are looking at increased costs in natural gas prices as well as electric rates unless a freeze on electric rates is extended by Illinois lawmakers.

The IDNR reported October temperatures were 3.8 degrees below normal for the month. The temperature dropped below freezing on Oct. 12 and 13, including a low of 20 degrees in Park Forest on Oct. 12.

October was also a wet month. Most of the state received about one inch above normal precipitation.

The good news is cold Octobers do not mean it will be a cold winter. Historically when the state has a cold October, the temperatures between December and February are normal or above normal, according to the IDNR.

The National Weather Service is predicting a wetter than normal winter with temperatures below normal for the lower two-thirds of the state.

Record cold in South Carolina

<http://www.wltx.com/news/story.aspx?storyid=43316>

The morning cold you experienced Tuesday in the Midlands was a record. And if trends continue, it could be a sign that snow is on the way.

The recorded low at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport was 31 degrees. That is the coldest October 24 since more precise records were begun in 1887. The old mark was 32 degrees, set in both 1999 and 1952.

And yes, it is unusual to see freezing temperatures this early in the year. News19 meteorologist Scott Ryan went back and checked the numbers, and found that a cold this early in the year only happens about 10 percent of the time. And since records began, a first freeze has occurred in October only 20 percent of the time.

The median date for the first freeze to take place is November 11.

The earliest freeze ever recorded in Columbia was on October 4, 1974. The latest was on December 30, 1921.

And here's a little food for thought: while it could be coincidence, our area has seen at least one snowfall for the winter five of the last seven times the first freeze happened in October. When you compare the years where there's been appreciable snow in the area against years where the first freeze happened in October, it shows there's a 62 percent chance of a freeze indicating snow for the following winter.

Record earliest cold in Charlotte

<http://www.charlotte.com/mlid/charlotte/15843933.htm>

STEVE LYTTLE

The coldest weather this early in Charlotte history continued today with another record low temperature.

It marked the second straight day of record cold weather -- and the fourth time it has happened in less than two weeks.

The National Weather Service office reports an unofficial low temperature this morning of 27 degrees at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport. That would break the old record of the date of 28 degrees, set in 1999.

Tuesday's low of 29 broke the record of 31, also set in 1999.

That 29-degree reading Tuesday was the *earliest it ever* has reached 29 degrees in Charlotte. And this morning's 27-degree reading is the earliest for such a cold temperature in the Queen City.

Until this morning, the temperature never had dropped below 28 degrees in Charlotte before Oct. 27. That happened in 1962, when the low on Oct. 27 was 24 degrees. We're not expected to reach that level this week, however.

Charlotte appears to have the coldest temperatures this morning.

Readings of 27 degrees were also measured at 6 a.m. by automated reporting equipment at Matthews Plantation in Matthews and Weddington Ridge in southwest Union County.

Temperatures of 28 degrees were measured at Ballantyne Meadows in southern Mecklenburg County; at Lowes Motor Speedway; and at a station in the UNC Charlotte area.

The temperatures at Statesville also dropped to 28 degrees at 6 a.m.

Temperatures of 30 degrees were common at 6 a.m., reported at Albemarle, Boone, Concord and Rock Hill. And Monroe had a 31-degree reading.

Temperatures the past two mornings have essentially ended the growing season across the region, so the National Weather Service will not be issuing frost and freeze warnings any more this year.
