

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FLAGSTAFF AZ
615 PM MST TUE NOV 2 2010

...MONTH IN REVIEW FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA FOR OCTOBER 2010...

...TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION OVERVIEW...

MINIMUM TEMPERATURES WERE WELL ABOVE NORMAL IN OCTOBER DUE TO THE PROLONGED PERIOD OF ABOVE NORMAL MOISTURE DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH. PRECIPITATION WAS ABOVE NORMAL AT LOCATIONS THAT WERE NEARER TO THE STORM TRACKS...MAINLY ALONG AND WEST OF THE MOGOLLON RIM...AND NEAR THE UTAH BORDER. THOSE LOCATIONS ALSO EXPERIENCED BELOW NORMAL HIGH TEMPERATURES DUE TO THE INCREASE CLOUD COVER. THE DRIER LOCATIONS IN OCTOBER EXPERIENCED ABOVE NORMAL DAYTIME TEMPERATURES WITH LESSER CLOUD COVER DURING THIS PERIOD.

OCTOBER DATA AND DEPARTURES FROM *NORMAL FOR SELECTED CITIES:

	MAX	DEP	MIN	DEP	PCPN	DEP
	TEMP	NORM	TEMP	NORM	TOTL	NORM
FLAGSTAFF	62.6	-0.5	35.0	+3.7	2.93	+1.00
BELLEMONT	61.4	-1.5	31.4	+4.6	4.18	+2.48
WINSLOW	74.5	+2.8	41.7	+1.6	0.47	-0.43
PRESCOTT AIRPORT	71.1	-2.6	44.6	+3.1	3.11	+2.30
SAINT JOHNS	73.3	+2.0	40.5	+2.9	0.18	-0.73
PAGE	69.7	+0.0	49.8	+3.2	2.16	+1.17
GRAND CANYON N. RIM	55.1	-1.9	35.1	+4.6	4.73	+2.69
MCNARY (WHITE MTNS)	64.4	+2.4	37.5	+2.1	1.28	-1.35
NAVAJO NATL MONUMENT	62.9	+0.4	42.6	+2.7	1.22	-0.22
PAYSON	73.7	-1.3	42.8	+2.6	1.76	+0.09

*NORMALS USED ARE FROM THE 1971 TO 2001 30 YEAR MEAN EXCEPT FOR PRESCOTT AIRPORT (1948 TO 2001)

...SIGNIFICANT WEATHER...

THE BIG STORY WAS THE STORM THAT AFFECTED NORTHERN ARIZONA ON OCTOBER 6TH...

A STRONG PACIFIC LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM LOCATED ACROSS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA...COMBINED WITH SUBSTANTIAL MOISTURE MOVING NORTH FROM MEXICO...LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF WIDESPREAD SEVERE THUNDERSTORM ACTIVITY ACROSS THE REGION ON WEDNESDAY...OCTOBER 6. NUMEROUS REPORTS OF HAIL WERE RECEIVED...WITH SIX CONFIRMED TORNADOES. IN ADDITION...THREE OTHER POSSIBLE TORNADO TRACKS HAVE BEEN LOCATED AND ARE BEING INVESTIGATED. STORM SURVEYS ARE STILL ONGOING...AND THIS NUMBER MAY INCREASE.

...TORNADOES...

The following is a preliminary summary of the confirmed tornado events, and will be updated as additional information becomes available. All times are approximate and MST. Damage ratings are based on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

1. Blue Ridge Tornado (1:58 - 2:12 AM). EF-1 damage. Forest Service and National Weather Service employees verified 10-15 mile path with numerous trees down and several forest roads blocked. Damage intensity varied considerably along path, which varied from 75 to 400 yards wide.
2. Bellemont Tornado #1 (5:07 - 5:35 AM): Considerable structural damage in and around the community of Bellemont. Aerial and ground surveys verified a semi-continuous tornado path from at least 9 miles south of Bellemont, extending northward crossing Hwy 180 northwest of Flagstaff. Total discontinuous path length of at least 25 miles. Preliminary estimates of damage intensity put this tornado at EF-1, with isolated EF-2 along forest track and in the Bellemont community. Additional damage stats include:
 - 6 minor injuries.
 - Over 100 homes damaged in Bellemont, 21 homes sustaining significant damage (deemed uninhabitable).
 - At least one business (RV Sales) with damage with 30+ RV units demolished and tossed onto Interstate 40. Interstate closed for several hours.
 - At least one overturned truck on the Interstate.
 - Numerous forest roads blocked, campers stranded by fallen trees.
 - Track was approx 2/3 mile east of the NWS Bellemont Weather Forecast office.
3. Bellemont Tornado #2 (5:58 - 6:40 AM): This tornado caused extensive forest damage (primarily south of Bellemont), along a discontinuous track which extended from 15 miles south of Bellemont, eventually crossing Hwy 180 northwest of Flagstaff. A significant and discontinuous tornado track was surveyed 15 miles to the north of Bellemont, and at least 15 miles to the south, resulting in a total path length of at least 30 miles. Very wide, severe forest damage (EF-2) occurred in the forest south of Bellemont. Additional damage stats include:
 - 28 rail cars derailed in Bellemont.
 - Power poles snapped on Camp Navajo.
 - Numerous forest roads blocked, campers stranded by fallen trees.
 - Tornado visually sighted by NWS staff at the Bellemont Weather Forecast Office.
 - Track was 1/3 mile west of the NWS Bellemont Weather Forecast office.

4. Garjon Tank Tornado (7:02 AM MST): This tornado caused extensive forest damage south of Bellemont. Based on severity of forest damage, this tornado is rated an EF-2.
5. An additional tornado damage track was discovered northwest of Kendrick Park, crossing Highway 180, and west of the two Bellemont tornado paths that crossed Highway 180 in the same general area. Estimated at EF-1. Time of occurrence estimated at 7:38 AM MST.
6. 11 miles southwest of Cordes Junction (10:30 AM MST): 50-yard wide tornado confirmed on the ground in grassland east of Interstate 17. Dissipated shortly afterward.
7. 19 miles southeast of Tuba City (11:15 AM MST): Tornado collapsed three 500 KV electrical transmission towers. The towers were of metal truss construction. one tower was completely flattened. Photographic evidence and first-hand reports were provided by Arizona Public Service. Tornado damage intensity is rated at EF-3. ([click for picture](#))
8. Munds Park / Cosnino (12:05 - 12:20 PM): This tornado was visually sighted crossing Interstate 17 moving northbound...later observed 4 miles south of the Country Club neighborhood on the east side of Flagstaff. Little damage reported at this time.

...HAIL REPORTS...

12 MILES S BELLEMONT.....	2.75	INCH DIAMETER
CORNVILLE.....	2.00	INCH DIAMETER
PARKS.....	1.75	INCH DIAMETER
TEEC NOS POS.....	1.75	INCH DIAMETER
RIMROCK.....	1.25	INCH DIAMETER
KACHINA VILLAGE.....	1.00	INCH DIAMETER
COTTONWOOD 1 MI SOUTH.....	1.00	INCH DIAMETER
MUNDS PARK 5 MI NORTH.....	1.00	INCH DIAMETER
MUNDS PARK.....	1.00	INCH DIAMETER

ANOTHER STORM SYSTEM THAT APPROACHED NORTHERN ARIZONA LATE IN OCTOBER PRODUCED VERY STRONG WINDS...

MUCH OF NORTHERN ARIZONA EXPERIENCED STRONG SOUTHWEST WINDS THAT SATURDAY MORNING AND AFTERNOON IN ADVANCE OF AN UPPER TROUGH THAT WAS LIFTING BY NORTH OF THE STATE. NUMEROUS LOCATIONS REPORTED GUSTS IN THE 40-50 MPH RANGE WITH SEVERAL SPOTS GUSTING IN THE 50-55 MPH RANGE.

PEAK WIND GUSTS INCLUDED:

FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT:	54	MPH
WINSLOW AIRPORT:	46	MPH
SEDONA AIRPORT:	43	MPH
PRESCOTT AIRPORT:	43	MPH
GRAND CANYON AIRPORT:	53	MPH
SHOW LOW AIRPORT:	49	MPH
WINDOW ROCK AIRPORT:	43	MPH
FOUR SPRINGS:	45	MPH

HAPPY JACK: 50 MPH
TWO GUNS: 53 MPH
SR277 @ SR377: 47 MPH
MOGOLLON AIRPARK: 55 MPH

A WIND ADVISORY WAS ISSUED FOR THIS EVENT BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER
SERVICE OFFICE IN FLAGSTAFF AT 328 PM MST FRIDAY OCT 29 2

PLEASE SEND QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO W-FGZ.WEBMASTER@NOAA.GOV