



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



August 1998

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DCZ001

District Of Columbia

01	0000EST								
31	2359EST			0	0		5K		Drought

Persistent high pressure produced unusually dry conditions during the entire month. Only 0.59 inches of rain fell at Washington/National Airport - compared to the normal of 3.91 inches. The National Arboretum in Northeast Washington was hardest hit by the drought. The arboretum expected to lose a number of valuable pine trees, as well as several smaller oak trees that were over a decade old, due to lack of rainfall.

MARYLAND, Central

MDZ009>010-013>014-016>018

Montgomery - Howard - Prince Georges - Anne Arundel - Charles - St. Mary'S - Calvert

01	0000EST								
31	2359EST			0	0				Drought

Persistent high pressure brought unusually dry weather to central and lower southern Maryland. Only 0.91 inches of rain fell at Baltimore/Washington International Airport (MDZ014), compared with the monthly normal of 3.91 inches. Similar measurements were found across lower southern Maryland. The lack of rainfall significantly reduced crop yields. Charles and St Mary's Cos were expected to lose between 30 and 40 percent of their corn crop. The soybean crop was also expected to be down around 20 percent from 1997 yields - a season which was also somewhat dry. By mid month, the Maryland Department of Agriculture reported that 51 percent of the state's corn crop and 56 percent of the soybean crop was rated "fair" to "very poor". In addition, the tobacco crop was showing signs of water stress by the end of the month.

**Carroll County
Westminster**

10	1435EST								
	1600EST			0	0	40K			Lightning

**Anne Arundel County
Annapolis**

10	1555EST								
				0	1				Lightning

An area of thunderstorms, containing frequent lightning, moved through Carroll, Baltimore, Howard, and Anne Arundel Cos. A 12 year-old boy was struck by lightning while fishing at the Annapolis Naval Station marina just before 5 PM EDT. He was given CPR for several minutes by an off-duty Navy employee, and was successfully resuscitated. Farther north, lightning started a house fire and hit two transformers in Westminster. The storm dumped 2.3 inches of rain in three hours, resulting in local ponding of water on area roads. Lightning also struck several power lines across the region, and caused power loss to over 10,000 customers in the Baltimore Gas and Electric service area. In Harford Co, downpours were blamed for several traffic accidents.

VIRGINIA, North

VAZ025>031-036>042-050>052-055>057

Augusta - Rockingham - Shenandoah - Frederick - Page - Warren - Clarke - Nelson - Albemarle - Greene - Madison - Rappahannock - Fauquier - Loudoun - Orange - Culpeper - Prince William - Stafford - Spotsylvania - King George

01	0000EST								
31	2359EST			0	0				Drought

Persistent high pressure brought unusually dry weather during the entire month for much of northern and central Virginia. Only 0.45 inches of rain fell at Washington Dulles Airport (VAZ042), which was significantly less than the normal of 3.94 inches. Similar readings were found across most of central and northern Virginia. The lack of rainfall substantially reduced crop yields. Corn, hay, and soybeans were hardest hit. Many farmers had to dip into winter reserves to feed livestock. Stafford, Fauquier, and Culpeper Cos. expected to lose around half their corn crop. In general, the drought was expected to reduce the corn and soybean harvest by 20 to 40 percent across the region.

The lack of rainfall also contributed to increasingly dry timber and brush. The U.S. Forest Service reported the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests were twice as dry as normal, and five fires broke out in these parks during the first week of the month. One of these fires burned a small portion of land near Schothorn Gap in Page Co. In addition to the fire threat, reservoirs continued to dry out. A water emergency was declared in Spotsylvania Co (VAZ056) on the 30th as the Ni River reservoir had neared dangerously low levels.

**Fairfax County
Chantilly to
Great Falls**

10	1435EST								
				0	0	101K			Lightning

A thunderstorm, containing frequent lightning, moved through northern Fairfax Co, starting three fires within five minutes. The first structure hit was a commercial building in Fair Oaks (near Chantilly), with the resulting fire damaging a computer. The second structure hit was the attic of a garden apartment building in McLean, where \$50,000 in damage was reported. The third lightning-induced fire damaged the roof and attic of a home in Great Falls, resulting in another \$50,000 in damage.



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

WEST VIRGINIA, East

WVZ050>055

Hampshire - Morgan - Berkeley - Jefferson - Pendleton - Hardy

01	0000EST				0	0			Drought
31	2359EST								

Persistent high pressure brought unusually dry weather to portions of eastern West Virginia. Less than 1 inch of rain fell across much of the region; values which were only 25 percent of normal for the month. The lack of rainfall significantly reduced crop yields in an area from Martinsburg to Franklin. Hay and pasture were hardest hit, affecting livestock feed supplies.

Grant County

**Central Portion to
North Portion**

09	1720EST				0	0	2K		Flash Flood
	1800EST								

Grant County

**1 S Petersburg to
.5 S Petersburg**

09	1800EST	0.5	33		0	0	15K		Tornado (F0)
	1801EST								

Grant County

Petersburg

09	1800EST				0	0	3K		Thunderstorm Wind
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An area of strong to thunderstorms, producing abundant rainfall, formed near the Allegheny highlands of Grant county during the evening. Initially, thunderstorms moving over the same areas of northern Grant Co produced very heavy rainfall. Doppler radar estimated that more than 2 inches of rain fell in 2 hours. Spotters and law enforcement across the county reported between 0.95 and 4 1/2 inches of rain with the storm. One individual cell developed over Petersburg, producing a variety of weather.

Local law enforcement noted minor street and basement flooding beginning around 1720EST. The storm, which became severe, blew down several six-inch diameter tree limbs and one power pole. A spotter just southwest of Petersburg on federal highway 220/West Virginia highway 2 reported 1/2 inch diameter hail which was "enough to scoop up". The hail also stripped leaves off corn stalks, but did not damage the ears.

The same spotter reported a funnel cloud near the Pansy/Bethel Church area shortly before 1800EST. A tornado apparently developed shortly after, remaining on the ground for 1/2 mile. The twister (F0) was 33 feet wide, and moved generally from southeast to northwest. The tornado snapped, twisted, and/or uprooted 10 sycamore trees between 10 and 30 inches in diameter. Two locust trees were stripped, a roadside produce stand's roof was damaged, and the railing on a front porch of a home was ripped off and twisted into a ball.