

Sage Winds



Serving NWS Boise Spotters and Cooperative Observers

Are You Ready?



That is the motto for National Preparedness month, September 2009. There are three main points to preparedness:

1. Put together a kit and keep one at home, work, and in each vehicle you own.
2. Make a family emergency plan with where to meet and points of contact.
3. Be informed, learn what you should do to prepare for both natural and man-made disasters and what dangers are most common in your area.

For details visit: <http://www.ready.gov>

Download or order “Are You Ready?” books at: <http://www.ready.gov/america/publications/allpubs.html>

Do one thing every month to prepare: <http://www.do1thing.us/>

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The 2009 Wildfire Season

While we in southeast Oregon and southwest Idaho haven't been feeling the heat of the flames this summer as with many summers past, California has been burning. I'm sure almost all of you have heard of the *Station* fire burning in southern CA, which has already claimed just over 160,000 acres. It is approximately 93 percent contained as of the date of publication. At its peak, over 5000 people were helping fight this fire in various roles.

What would you do if faced with fire? Make sure you are ready with the preparedness information above and also check out “6 Minutes for Safety” brought to you by the Federal Fire and Aviation Safety Team:

http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/dsp_sixminutes.php

This website updates with various safety tips.



Inside this issue:	
<i>Hurricane Update</i>	2
<i>We Are in a Solar Minimum</i>	2
<i>Coldest, Driest, and Calmest Place on Earth</i>	2
<i>September Warmth</i>	3
<i>Warm Summer Ocean Temperatures</i>	3
<i>Weather Headlines</i>	4
<i>Weather Humor Corner</i>	4

Hurricane Update

There are currently no hurricanes or disturbances that look like they may become a tropical storm or a hurricane in the Atlantic.

There is an unorganized disturbance in the Eastern Pacific but the Hurricane Prediction Center says that there is less than a 30 percent chance of this becoming a tropical storm or hurricane.

Wonder when 97 percent of tropical activity occurs?: <http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/tcfaq/G1.html>

Check out this interactive website: <http://interactive.foxnews.com/us/weather/saffir-simpson-hurricane-wind-scale> where you can explore the effects of a category one through a category five hurricane.

We Are In a Solar Minimum

Sunspot activity generally follows an 11-year cycle, and we are in a minimum of the current cycle, with 2008 having come in the lowest in nearly a century. Thoughts were that 2009 would start an increase, but it too has been experiencing a minimum.

For details see:

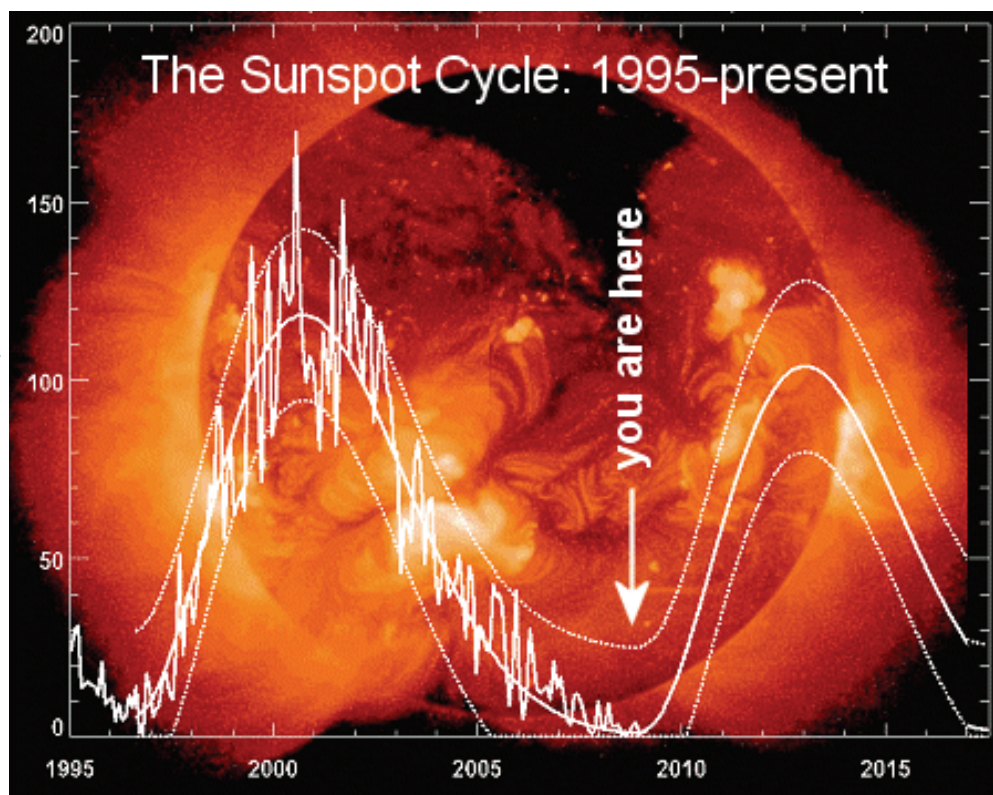
<http://www.spaceweather.com/glossary/spotlessdays.htm?PHPSESSID=tp5jhugk4s2gc7mervkc>

And:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/2009/01apr_deepolarminimum.htm

Ideas have been bounced around how sunspot activity affects weather and climate, but I have been unable to find direct evidence of this.

Photo Credit: David Hathaway, NASA/MSFC



The Coldest, Driest, and Calmest Place On Earth

Ridge A, located on the Antarctic Plateau, was identified in 2009 as “the coldest, driest, calmest place on earth”, at 13,300 feet in elevation with an average temperature of -94 degrees F! Winds all flow away from that center point making it similar to the calm “eye of the storm” and very little water vapor can exist in temperatures that cold. It is an ideal place for an observatory with views three times clearer than any other place on earth. See the following articles for more information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ridge_A

http://news.yahoo.com/s/livescience/20090831/sc_livescience/coldestdriestcalmestplaceonearthfound

September 2009 May Go Down as the Warmest on Record in Some Locations

If you have thought this month has been warmer than average, then you would be right! As you can see from the graphic on the right, average temperature anomalies over southeast Oregon and southwest Idaho have been 4 to 8 degrees above normal through the first 18 days of September. The average temperature is the average of all the high temperatures and low temperatures for the month. There have been above normal anomalies through much of the West and Upper Midwest this month with a fairly persistent ridge of high pressure over the area.

Some specific anomaly numbers for our area are:

- Boise: +7.4
- Baker: +2.2
- Burns: +4.9
- Jerome: +4.8
- McCall: +5.9
- Ontario: +5.4
- Rome: +6.6

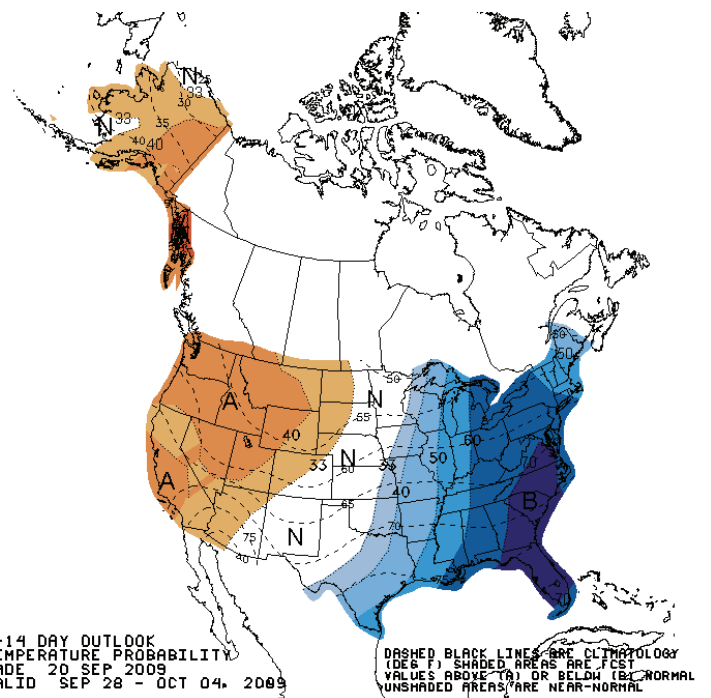
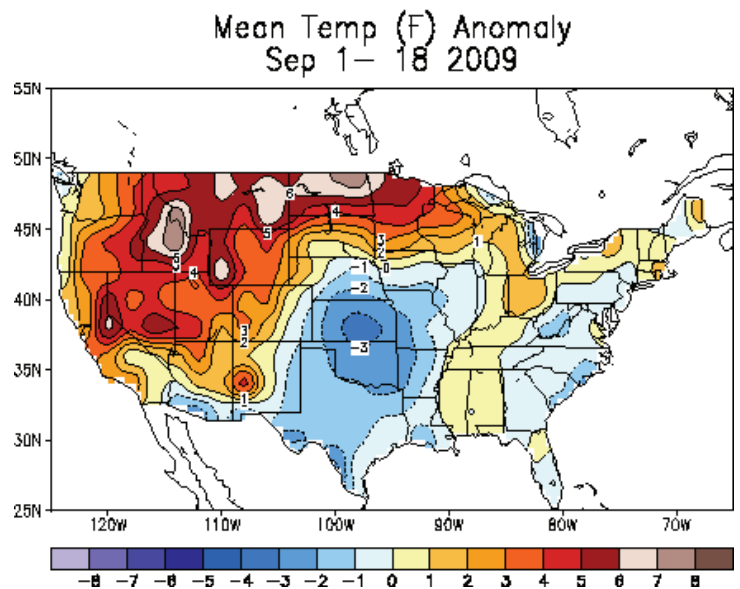
All the above are the departures from normal the first 19 days of September when compared to climatological monthly averages /1971-2000/. Twin Falls has also been warm, but does not have a long enough period of record to make an accurate comparison.

If the current forecast for Boise holds true the rest of the month, this will likely end up being the warmest September on record in the Boise area since records began in 1877.

Right: The forecaster 8-14 day temperature probabilities produced by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) showing there is a greater than normal chance of having above normal temperatures through the first weekend of October.

Ocean Temperatures Warmest on Record This Summer:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32915883/ns/us_news-environment/





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Weather Headlines:

Typhoon Koppa hits China:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3291588/3/ns/us_news-environment/

Typhoon Choi-Wan hits Japan:

<http://www.physorg.com/news172513582.html>

Significant Flooding Across Indiana, Georgia, and Kentucky:

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/09/21/Rains-flood-Georgia-Kentucky-Indiana/UPI-13091253543740/



Happy Fall!

Fall begins September 22 at 3:18 pm MDT /2:18 pm PDT/



**Weather.gov/
Boise**

Working Together To Save Lives

Weather Humor Corner

Pickles/Brian Crane

