

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period May 12 – May 18, 2012

General Interest: Record and near-record temperatures have plagued a large portion of the United States since one year ago. During the month of March 2012, 15,272 warm temperature records were broken (7,755 daytime records, 7,517 nighttime records) according to the National Climatic Data Center's (NCDC) State of the Climate National Overview report for March, 2012. Not surprisingly, March ended up being the warmest March on record with an average temperature of 51.1 degrees F across the contiguous United States. Records date back to 1895. There were 21 instances of nighttime temperatures being as warm or warmer than the existing record daytime temperature for a given date.

The warm temperatures during the January-March 2012 period also set a record with an average temperature of 42.0 degrees F across the contiguous United States. The cold season (October 2011 through March 2012) was the second warmest on record. The warmest cold season on record came during October 1999 through March 2000. Looking back further into last year, NCDC indicates the April 2011 through March 2012 period was the warmest such period on record. Within this one year period, there was the second warmest summer on record (June-August) and the fourth warmest winter on record (December-February).

Locally, the National Weather Service in Dodge City indicates Dodge City had the second warmest March on record with an average temperature of 54.2 degrees F which was 9.8 degrees above normal. The warmest March at Dodge City was back in 1910. A few daily records were set at Dodge City with one daytime high temperature record and three for nighttime highest minimum temperature.

Sources:

National Climatic Data Center: www.ncdc.noaa.gov

National Weather Service, Dodge City, KS: www.crh.noaa.gov/ddc/

Weather: A few light showers with an occasional rumble of thunder occurred on Saturday and Sunday over portions of western Kansas. Precipitation was generally less than a tenth of an inch. Temperatures warmed to the middle 80's to low 90's during the middle of the week with mostly sunny skies.

Operations: No operations occurred this week.

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Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program