Climate and Weather Records

Why Should You Care?

Joe Sullivan
NWS Louisville

Weather-Ready Nation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it...

does it make a sound?
If a Tree Falls in the Forest...

And no one tells the NWS, was it really a tornado?
If a road floods in Kentucky...

And no one tells the NWS, will you fail to get your grant?

Photo Credit: WLKY
"The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community."
"The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community."
“Those National Weather guys in DC”
Parable of the 5 blind men

What does YOUR elephant look like?
The Warning Process:

1-800-292-5588
Kentucky Weather Fatalities
1995 - 2014

- Tornado (45)
- Lightning (15)
- Flood/FF (69)
- Wind (22)

Kentucky Weather Fatalities
1995 - 2014

- Tornado (45)
- Lightning (15)
- Flood/FF (69)
- Wind (22)
Historical Weather Data

Self Service

Full Service
How to find us

[Image of weather.gov website]

@NWSLouisville
NWS Past Weather

weather.gov

@NWSLouisville
NWS Past Weather
NWS Past Weather
NWS Past Weather

weather.gov

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NCDC Storm Data
National Climatic Data Center

Storm Events Database

The Storm Events Database contains the records used to create the official NOAA Storm Data publication documenting:

a. The occurrence of storms and other significant weather phenomena having sufficient intensity to cause loss of life, injuries, significant property damage, and/or disruption to commerce;
b. Rare, unusual, weather phenomena that generate media attention, such as snow flurries in South Florida or the San Diego coastal area; and
c. Other significant meteorological events, such as record maximum or minimum temperatures or precipitation that occur in connection with another event.

The database currently contains data from **January 1950 to April 2015**, as entered by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS). Due to changes in the data collection and processing procedures over time, there are unique periods of record available depending on the event type. NCDC has performed data reformatting and standardization of event types but has not changed any data values for locations, fatalities, injuries, damage, narratives and any other event specific information. Please refer to the Database Details page for more information.

Select State or Area

- All States and Areas –

-- or --

Narrative Text Search

Search

Text Search

help and examples
NCDC Database

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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National Climatic Data Center

Storm Events Database

Search Results for Hardin County, Kentucky

21 events were reported between 04/01/1950 and 04/30/2015 (23771 days)

Summary Info:
- Number of County/Zone areas affected: 1
- Number of Days with Event: 17
- Number of Days with Event and Death: 1
- Number of Days with Event and Injury: 4
- Number of Days with Event and Property Damage: 14
- Number of Days with Event and Crop Damage: 0
- Number of Event Types reported: 1

Column Definitions:
- Mag: Magnitude, Ch: Deaths, Inj: Injuries, PhD: Property Damage, "C/D": Crop Damage

Data Export: (current results)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>L.Z.</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Mag</th>
<th>Ch</th>
<th>Inj</th>
<th>PhD</th>
<th>&quot;C/D&quot;</th>
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Weather-Ready Nation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
@NWSLouisville
NWS Damage Survey Viewer

Weather-Ready Nation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

@NWSLouisville
NWS Damage Survey Viewer

Weather-Ready Nation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

@NWSLouisville
The NWS isn’t the ONLY source for historical weather info
CoCoRaHS

Welcome to CoCoRaHS: "Volunteers working together to measure precipitation across the nation."

Who uses CoCoRaHS Observations?

CoCoRaHS Welcomes the US Virgin Islands

Weather-Ready Nation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

@NWSLouisville
CoCoRaHS

Active Stations
Kentucky

Weather-Ready Nation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CoCoRaHS

### View Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data/Reports</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Precipitation Reports</td>
<td>Searchable list of all daily precipitation reports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Comments Reports</td>
<td>List of all daily reports with comments for a given day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant Weather Reports</td>
<td>Searchable list of all significant weather reports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Day Accumulation Reports</td>
<td>Searchable list of all multiple day accumulation reports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drought Impact Reports</td>
<td>Searchable list of all drought impact reports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evapotranspiration Reports</td>
<td>Searchable list of all evapotranspiration reports.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Data with Rain

- Days With Rain Reports: This is a list of all days with one or more rain reports.
- Search Rain Reports: Searchable list of all rain reports.
- Station Rain Reports: This is a complete list of all rain reports for a station.

### Summary Reports

- Water Year Summary Reports: This is a list of Station Water Year Summary Reports available for download.
- Station Precipitation Summary Report: This is a list of precipitation data entered into the database for a specific station for a given range of days. The report can be run for one to three stations at a time.
- Station Snow Summary Report: This is a list of all snow data entered into the database for a specific station for a given range of days. The report can be run for one to three stations at a time.
- Station Water Balance Summary Report: This is a list of precipitation and evapotranspiration data entered into the database for a specific station for a given range of days. The report can be run for one to three stations at a time.
- Station Water Balance Chart: A water balance chart is a graphical accounting system to track incoming moisture (precipitation) and outgoing (evapotranspiration). The chart is available for the stations that are observing evapotranspiration and precipitation.
- Total Precipitation Summary: This is a list of all reporting stations, their total precipitation for a given period of days, and the total number of reports for each station.
- Rainy Days Report: List of all the days in a given date range with the average precip, max precip, and the number of stations reporting non-zero precipitation or snowfall each day.

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**Weather-Ready Nation**
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

@NWSLouisville
### 2010 Yearly Precipitation Totals Table

<table>
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<td>2.29</td>
<td>4.67</td>
<td>1.64</td>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>4.94</td>
<td>3.20</td>
<td>2.58</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>6.88</td>
<td>3.79</td>
<td>5.91</td>
<td>29.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOU</td>
<td>2.18</td>
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<td>29.96</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Summary Data**

- **Yearly Min Temperature:** 13.2°F
- **Yearly Max Temperature:** 81.2°F
- **Yearly Avg Temperature:** 58.9°F
- **Yearly Precipitation:** 29.96 in
IEM Cow

IEM Cow (NWS Storm Based Warning Verification)

Data presented here is unofficial and should be used for educational purposes only. This application allows you to view warnings and storm reports issued by a Weather Forecast Office (WFO) for a period of time of your choice. The application attempts to automatically provide verification numbers for the warnings issued. This application works for dates after 6 June 2005.

Storm Based Warnings

On the first of October 2007, the National Weather Service began issuing warnings for tornados, severe weather, floods, and marine hazards as a storm by storm basis. Previously, the warnings were issued for an entire county. This application attempts to provide verification statistics for these storm based warnings.

The images shown are taken from the NWS Storm Based Warnings website.

Verification Methodology

The map on the left illustrates some of the spatial statistics the Cow produces. The following is a brief description of these values:

- SBW Size (SF): This is the size of the polygons expressed in square kilometers. The calculation is done in the projection “US National Atlas Equal Area” (EPSG 2163).
- County Area (C): This is the area of the polygon associated with one or more counties. This value is the total area of the associated counties. Some projected used as above.
- Size % (C/P): This is the size reduction percentage of the storm based warning versus the count.
- Centered: This is the attempt to determine how much of the storm based warning perimeter is actually within the county political boundary. The ratio is simply the portion of the SBW perimeter that is contained within the county.
- Verification Area %: This is the area within the county political boundary that is impacted by the storm based warning. The larger the area, the larger the impact of the storm based warning.
### Warnings Issued & Verifying LSRs:

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<th>County</th>
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<td>DUBOSS, IN</td>
<td>Flash</td>
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<td>DUBOSS, IN</td>
<td>Flash</td>
<td>Flash</td>
<td>A FAMILY HAS TO BE EVACUATED OUT OF A HOME IN CRAWFORD.</td>
<td>A FAMILY HAS TO BE EVACUATED OUT OF A HOME IN CRAWFORD.</td>
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<td>100 % Visual</td>
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<td>BUTLER, KY</td>
<td>Flash</td>
<td>Flash</td>
<td>HIGHWAY 168 HAS WATER OVER IT IN SPOTS.</td>
<td>HIGHWAY 168 HAS WATER OVER IT IN SPOTS.</td>
<td>100 %</td>
<td>100 % Visual</td>
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<td>Flash</td>
<td>Flash</td>
<td>HIGHWAY 60 HAS WATER OVER ROADWAY.</td>
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<td>100 % Visual</td>
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<td>100 % Visual</td>
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<td>Flash</td>
<td>WATER COVERS LOUDON ROAD IN SPOTS</td>
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<td>Flash</td>
<td>FLOODING AT ROSEVILLE ROAD AND COUNTRY ROAD</td>
<td>FLOODING AT ROSEVILLE ROAD AND COUNTRY ROAD</td>
<td>100 %</td>
<td>100 % Visual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Weather-Ready Nation**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

@NWSLouisville
Historical Weather Data

Self Service  Full Service
NWS-only climate sites
NWS-only climate data

Climate Data in Kentucky
- Period of record differs for all sites
- Not all sites continue to report
- Temperature data not available for all sites

Map of Kentucky with climate stations marked on it.
NWS-only: xmAcis2
NWS-only Viewer
NWS-only Viewer

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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NWSChat database

1) Adjust map features here

2) Select Warning Type and Year

3) Click on the List Events tab
NWSChat database

Mouse over the “Locations” listing to bring up the down-arrow

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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### NWSChat database

1. Click on the down arrow to bring up the sorting menu.
2. Type in your county name.
3. Check the "Filters box.

---

**Forecast Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Issued (UTC)</th>
<th>Expired (UTC)</th>
<th>Area km²</th>
<th>Locations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2015-04-03 03:42</td>
<td>2015-04-03 03:45</td>
<td>3140</td>
<td>Perry [IN], Dubois [IN], Harrison [IN], Orange [IN]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2015-04-03 03:45</td>
<td>2015-04-03 03:48</td>
<td>1295</td>
<td>Clark [IN], Floyd [IN], Jefferson [IN]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2015-04-03 03:48</td>
<td>2015-04-03 03:51</td>
<td>1404</td>
<td>Spencer [IN], Woodford [IN], Franklin [IN]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2015-04-03 03:51</td>
<td>2015-04-03 03:54</td>
<td>1651</td>
<td>Meade [KY], Daviess [KY], Henderson [KY]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2015-04-03 03:54</td>
<td>2015-04-03 03:57</td>
<td>1687</td>
<td>Mercer [IN], Noble [IN], Spencer [IN], Wood [IN]</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2015-04-03 03:57</td>
<td>2015-04-03 04:00</td>
<td>1691</td>
<td>Pike [IN], Jefferson [IN], Oldham [IN]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2015-04-03 04:00</td>
<td>2015-04-03 04:03</td>
<td>1751</td>
<td>Spaulding [KY], Clark [IN], Oldham [IN]</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2015-04-03 04:03</td>
<td>2015-04-03 04:06</td>
<td>1685</td>
<td>Woodford [IN], Franklin [IN], Anderson [IN]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2015-04-03 04:06</td>
<td>2015-04-03 04:09</td>
<td>2513</td>
<td>Woodford [IN], Franklin [IN], Anderson [IN]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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NWSChat database

Select a Warning
Click for a listing of reports within the warning
NWSChat database

Click the [+] buttons to see details
NWSChat database

You can also download a .kml file of the reports and open it in Google Earth
NWSChat database

Click for a listing of ALL storm reports occurring during the time of the warning
NWSChat database

Click the [+] buttons to see details
If a road floods in Kentucky...

And no one dies, will the NWS ever know?

Photo Credit: WLKY
My little sister and I were trying to do something as simple as get Chinese take-out when we floated away a 2014 Dodge Ram 1500. A big truck, a very big truck. It had rained a lot that day and there had been warnings of flash flooding, but when we left the house it wasn’t raining anymore, it hadn’t been raining for a couple of hours. As we reached the wide 2-lane bypass that goes through town we were forced to turn around because the road was blocked-off due to flooding, so we tried to find another route into town. My little sister still rides the bus so she suggested that we take the bus route to another road that could get us into town, I figured that if a school bus could drive it then the road was probably safe. The road proved to be a safe pathway until we reached the last ¼ mile of road before coming to the intersection that would allow us to finally drive into town. The road was small and curvy so I was driving slowly when I was faced with water on the roadway. It was about 9 o’clock and dark outside; from the driver’s seat I could see the water in front of the truck and no more than 100 feet away from me I could see a stop sign and emergency vehicle lights. I figured that the truck was big and could push through the water, I was wrong. As I slowly drove the truck into the water everything seemed fine, then suddenly the truck sounded different, I put the vehicle in reverse and tried to back out of the water on the roadway. When the truck wasn’t able to move backwards I realized that we were stuck. I stuck my head out the window to ask the Fire and Rescue workers that were at the end of road what I should do. Their advice was to continue to try and move through the water. I put the truck in drive again and accelerated forward, as we moved deeper into the water the truck began to float. As the truck began to float and move with the water we became stuck on a guardrail and water began to fill the cab of the truck. My little sister and I had to sit in the vehicle as Fire and Rescue sent out a crew to retrieve us from the truck. Water flooded the engine and ruined the vehicle. Turn around, don’t drown.
My little sister and I were trying to do something as simple as get Chinese take-out when we floated away a 2014 Dodge Ram 1500. A big truck, a very big truck. It had rained a lot that day and there had been warnings of flash flooding, but when we left the house it wasn’t raining anymore, it hadn’t been raining for a couple of hours. As we reached the wide 2-lane bypass that goes through town we were forced to turn around because the road was blocked-off due to flooding, so we tried to find another route into town. My little sister still rides the bus so she suggested that we take the bus route to another road that could get us into town, I figured that if a school bus could drive it then the road was probably safe. The road proved to be a safe pathway until we reached the last ¼ mile of road before coming to the intersection that would allow us to finally drive into town. The road was small and curvy so I was driving slowly when I was faced with water on the roadway. It was about 9 o’clock and dark outside; from the driver’s seat I could see the water in front of the truck and no more than 100 feet away from me I could see a stop sign and emergency vehicle lights. I figured that the truck was big and could push through the water, I was wrong. As I slowly drove the truck into the water everything seemed fine, then suddenly the truck sounded different, I put the vehicle in reverse and tried to back out of the water on the roadway. When the truck wasn’t able to move backwards I realized that we were stuck. I stuck my head out the window to ask the Fire and Rescue workers that were at the end of road what I should do. Their advice was to continue to try and move through the water. I put the truck in drive again and accelerated forward, as we moved deeper into the water the truck began to float. As the truck began to float and move with the water we became stuck on a guardrail and water began to fill the cab of the truck. My little sister and I had to sit in the vehicle as Fire and Rescue sent out a crew to retrieve us from the truck. Water flooded the engine and ruined the vehicle. **Turn around, don’t drown.**
Help Me Help You!

Send ALL your weather-related damage reports to the NWS
Getting YOUR info to us

NWSChat Live

Weather-Ready Nation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

@NWSLouisville
Getting YOUR info to us:

#KYwx

#INwx

NWS Louisville (@NWSLouisville)
Official Twitter account for the National Weather Service in Louisville. Details: weather.gov/louisville
Joined June 2012

Tweets
6,279
Following
114
Followers
5,729
Favorites
71
Lists
4

Increasing clouds tonight. Lows in the mid-upper 20s to the lower 30s. indy and rainy for Thursday. #kywx #inwx

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Getting YOUR info to us:

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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Getting YOUR info to us:

mPING

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800-292-5588
Referenced Websites

- [https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/](https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/)
- [http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/IPS/sd/sd.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/IPS/sd/sd.html)
- [http://54.243.139.84/StormDamage/DamageViewer/](http://54.243.139.84/StormDamage/DamageViewer/)
- [http://www.kymesonet.org/](http://www.kymesonet.org/)
- [https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/cow/](https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/cow/)
- [https://nwschat.weather.gov/](https://nwschat.weather.gov/)
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- [https://www.facebook.com/JoeninoWxman](https://www.facebook.com/JoeninoWxman)
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- [@JoeninoWxman](https://twitter.com/JoeninoWxman)
Questions?

"The forecast for today: scattered arrows."

Joe.Sullivan@noaa.gov  @JoeninoWxman