

SAGE WINDS

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE – BOISE, ID

<http://www.weather.gov/boise>

OCTOBER 2011



The Joplin Tornado: Lessons Learned

SERVING NWS WEATHER SPOTTERS, CO-OP OBSERVERS & COCORAHS OBSERVERS

In an effort to improve warning issuance and communication, the National Weather Service frequently conducts assessments within the text of a tornado warning of extreme weather events and the quality of local NWS services provided during those events. It's a method used to evaluate which NWS practices were successful, and which need to be altered or eliminated. Recently, the NWS released its assessment of the Joplin Tornado Event of May 22, 2011.

“Tragically, despite advance tornado outlooks, watches and warnings, 159 people died and more than 1,000 were injured.”

- Jack Hayes, NWS Director

Forecasters may also be encouraged to describe possible impacts of the weather phenomena, not just the weather phenomena itself.

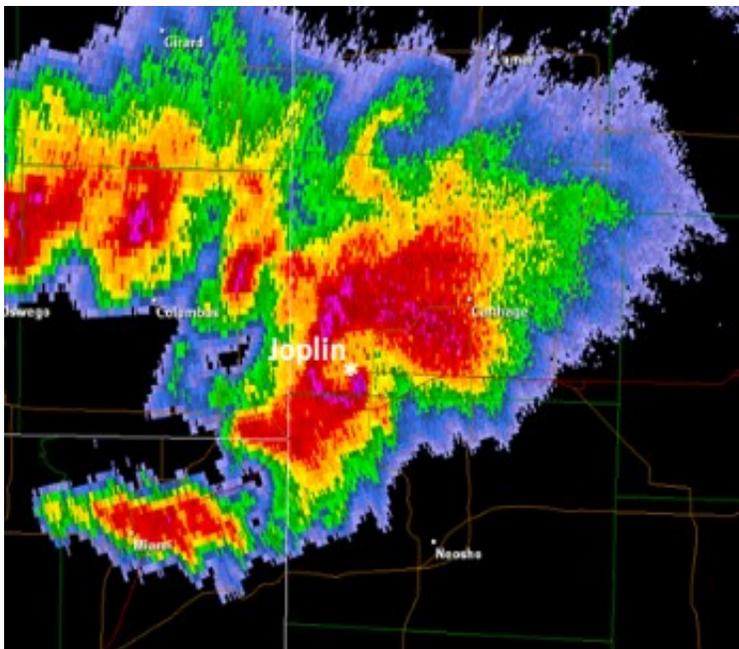
It is believed that stronger, more aggressive text for violent tornadoes would more aptly convey the impending threat, thereby increasing the public's

According to a [NOAA News article](#) summarizing the assessment,

sense of urgency and decreasing response time. This quicker response to tornado warnings would, undoubtedly, save lives.

“the team determined that a number of factors contributed to the high death toll. Through interviews with more than 100 Joplin residents, the team found that societal response to warnings is highly complex and involves a number of factors, such as risk perception, overall credibility of warnings and warning communications.”

To improve the NWS' ability to save lives and property, the assessment team made several recommendations based on their research. One of these recommendations is to improve warning communication by differentiating be-



^^ Radar reflectivity image of the supercell that struck Joplin, Missouri on the evening of May 22, 2011.

Hot! Hot! Hot!

Record-Breaking 98°F Reached at KBOI!

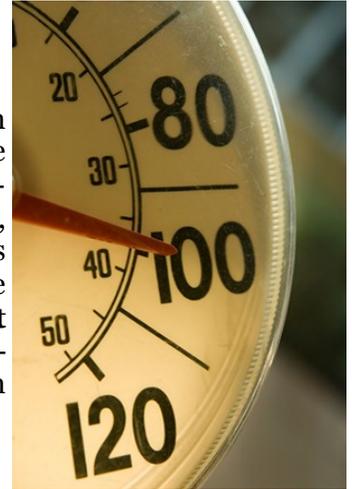
By Robert Diaz

Boise broke the all time record high for September 24th with a max temperature of **98 degrees!** There was a problem with the ASOS max temperature, where an estimated 101 degrees was listed in error. In reviewing the one minute data on the ASOS, the official highest temperature on September 24th was 98. The old record was 94 degrees set in 1947.

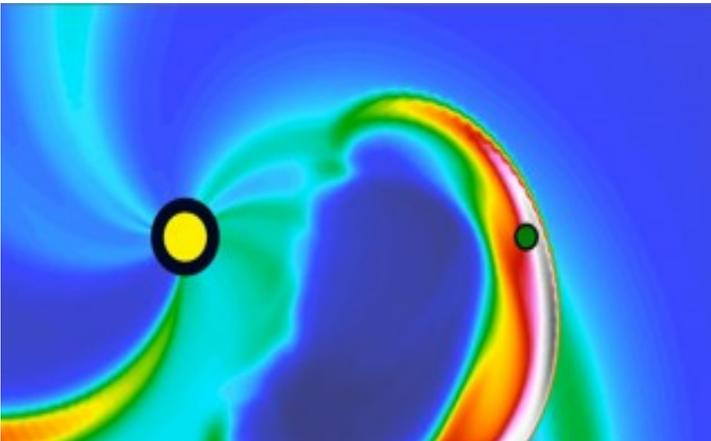
A September to Remember

By George Skari

September was a very warm and dry month in Boise. The average monthly temperatures was 71.4 degrees, which was 6.5 degrees above normal. This made September the **warmest September ever** since record keeping began back in 1865.



The Final (Forecast) Frontier...



You may have heard of the Storm Prediction Center and the Climate Prediction Center, but have you heard of the NWS' Space Weather Prediction Center?

The Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC), located in Boulder, Colorado, is "one of the nine National Centers for Environmental Prediction. It is the nation's official source of space weather alerts, watches, and warnings. SWPC provides real-time monitoring and forecasting of solar and geophysical events which impact satellites, power grids, communications, navigation, and many other technological systems." For more on space weather, refer to the SWPC's link on space weather basics:

^^ [SWPC Model Animation Showing Recent Coronal Mass Ejection.](#) Click to link to animation.

[A Primer on Space Weather](#)

Weather In the News

["Deadly Storm Hits China" \(CNN\)](#)

["28 Bodies Bring India's Monsoon Flood Toll to 335"](#)

[\(AP via MSNBC\)](#)

[MSNBC's "Historical Hurricane Tracker" \(Using data from the National Hurricane Center's hurricane database.\)](#)

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Winter Outlook: La Niña Advisory Now In Effect

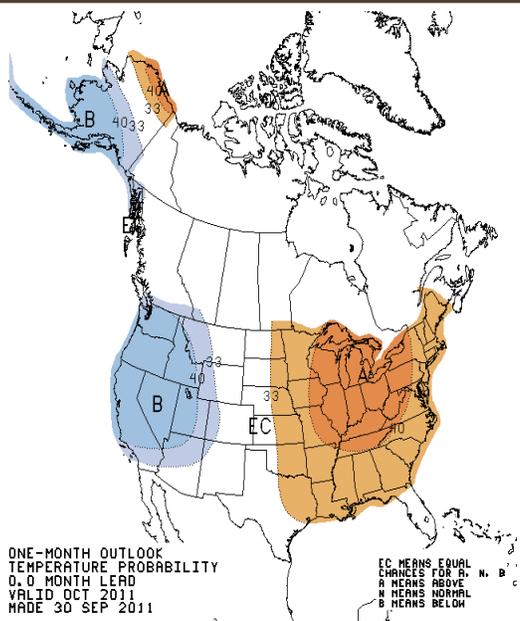
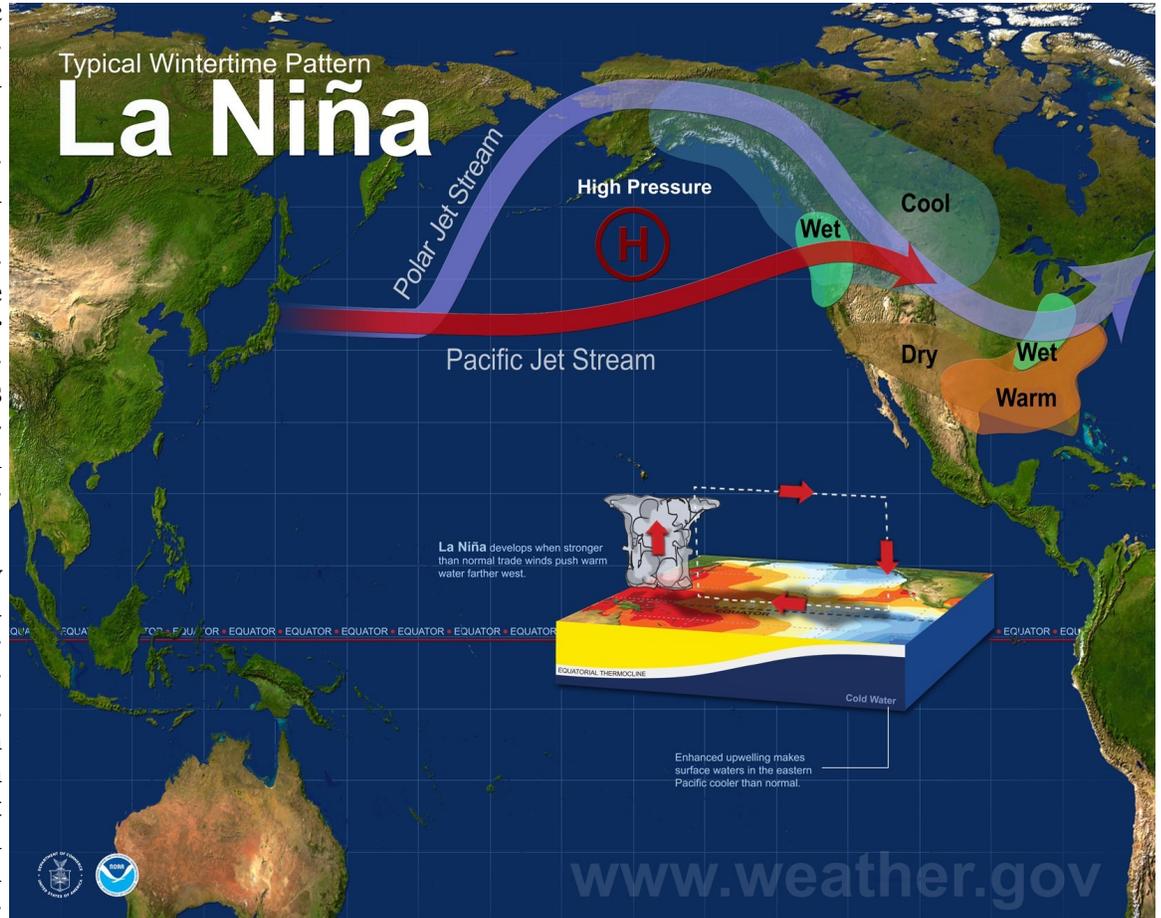
Last month, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) issued a La Niña Watch for the upcoming cool season. Since then, sea-surface temperature (SST) anomalies in the east-central equatorial Pacific have been increasingly negative (i.e. cooler), which is indicative of strengthening La Niña conditions. Additionally, current atmospheric patterns are representative of a La Niña state.

Increased confidence that La Niña conditions will strengthen and continue through the upcoming winter season has encouraged CPC forecasters to upgrade the previous La Niña Watch to a La Niña Advisory.

A La Niña Advisory means that La Niña conditions are occurring and are expected to persist. What does this mean for southeast Oregon and southwest Idaho? Generally a La Niña pattern will bring increased pre-

cipitation across northern terrain and temperatures slightly below normal. For more information on La Niña and its effects:

[La Niña: Frequently Asked Questions](#)



October Outlook

<< Temperature Outlook

Precipitation >> Outlook

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/>

