



Under the Big Sky e-letter – Sept 7, 2010 September is National Preparedness Month

It's National Preparedness Month! With winter coming, are you truly prepared? What if you lose power for 1-5 days (happened last January to some of our neighbors around here!)? Here are a few links to help you get prepared:
<http://www.ready.gov/>

Preparedness can be overwhelming. Trying to get all those things at once can also be expensive. Well, this next site will help you get ready by doing one thing a month. In a year, you'll have all that you need! <http://www.do1thing.us/>

The big question is how much stuff is needed for my family (whether it's just you, or you, a spouse and 6 kids and 4 dogs). This link is cool: Go into the program, and then set it up to fit your family situation. It tells you how much water, food, meds, etc you need depending on how big your family is, how many pets you have, and how many days you want to be prepared for. The old thinking was 3-5 days, but with recent US and global disasters, 14 days is quickly becoming the new standard for you having to be dependent on yourself and having supplies readily available (with no local, state or federal government help). <http://72.3.171.147/#SITE>

The Red Cross also has one page fact sheets that you can print out and share with family, co-workers and friends. Here are a few that are relevant in Northeast Montana:

Be Red Cross Ready – Get a Kit. Make a Plan. Be Informed.
http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/checklists/Be_Red_Cross_Ready.pdf

Pets and Disaster Safety:
http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/checklists/Be_Red_Cross_Ready.pdf

Power Outage:
<http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/checklists/PetSafety.pdf>

Thunderstorm Safety:
<http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/checklists/PetSafety.pdf>

Tornado Safety:

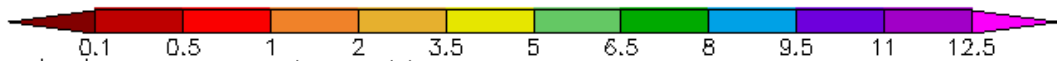
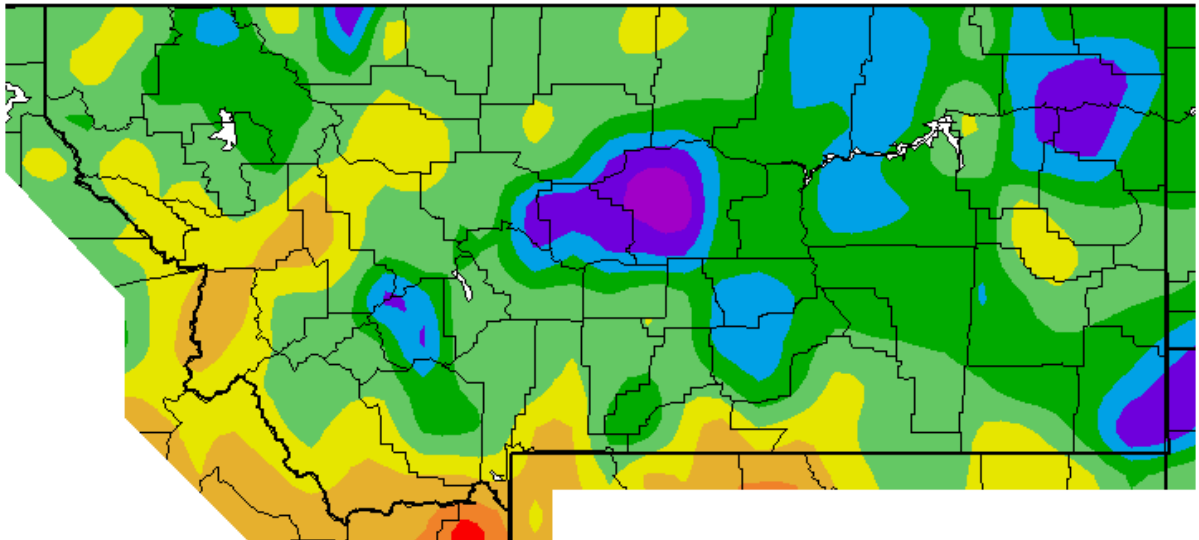
<http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/checklists/PetSafety.pdf>

Winter Storm Safety:

<http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/WinterStorms.pdf>

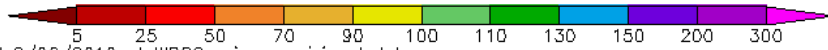
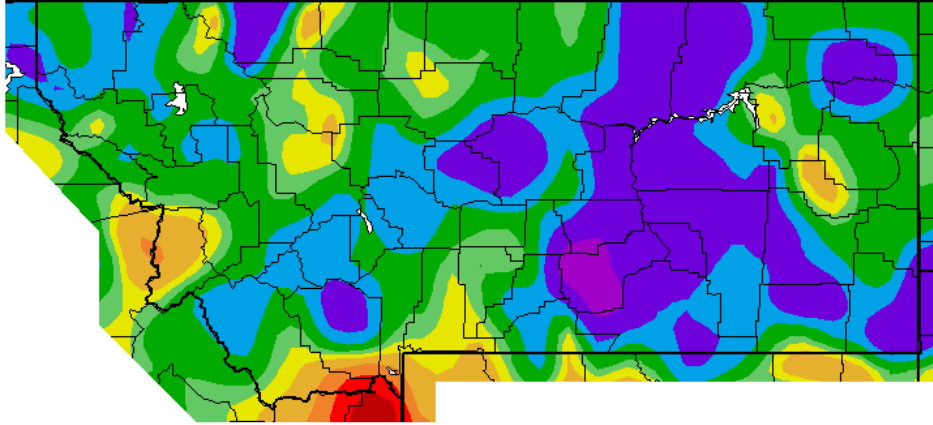
Recent Weather: I'm sure it's no surprise that it's been a bit wet and cool this summer. Below are two graphics showing the Total Precipitation and the % of Normal Precipitation from early June through early September.

Total Precipitation (in.)
6/8/2010 – 9/5/2010



Generated 9/06/2010 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

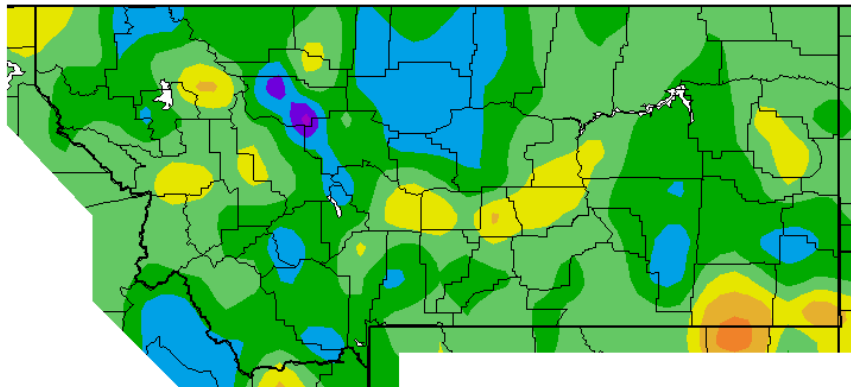
Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
6/8/2010 – 9/5/2010



Generated 9/06/2010 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

And, the final graphic is the Ave. Departure from Normal for temperatures during the same time period:

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
6/8/2010 – 9/5/2010



Generated 9/06/2010 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

NWS Glasgow Happenings:

Long Version – Under the Big Sky Webletter ready: The Under the Big Sky webletter with longer weather related articles is ready to go on the web.
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/ggw/newsletter/summer_10/index.php

Continual Learning: All NWS forecasters recently had to complete an online course on Climate Change. It was well put together, and acknowledges some of the controversy, but also highlights the known scientific facts. This online training is open to the public, and you can access it at: <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/> Select "Climate" under topics, and then "Climate Change: Fitting the Pieces Together."

Great Divide Weather Workshop: This annual conference on weather in the northern Rockies/Northern Plains is slated to be held in Billings on Nov 2-4, 2010. The workshop allows NWS offices and our many partners to share research, discuss new technologies, discuss decision support services and outreach activities. This year, a tabletop exercise with a Yellowstone Park Volcanic Eruption will be included. If you are interested in attending, you can go to:
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/byz/greatdivide/welcome.php?wfo=ggw>

StormReady Renewals: Dawson, Richland, and Sheridan Counties as well as their incorporated communities are up for their StormReady renewals. The program highlights communities that work hard to promote preparedness, have different ways to receive weather information, and disseminate weather information, as well as have formal plans for what to do when hazardous weather strikes. I will be visiting all three communities by the end of the month, and reviewing the criteria sheets with the Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators, and they either have had a recent visit to the NWS Glasgow office, or will be visiting soon. The recent deadly events in eastern Montana will likely bring excellent topics of discussion and potential new ideas to further prepare people of northeast Montana to be ready when hazardous weather hits. To learn more about StormReady go to,
<http://www.weather.gov/stormready/>



NOAA News:

No Dead Zones Observed or Expected as Part of BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill:

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100907_jag3.html

Weather in the News:

Pakistan continues to suffer after deadly floods in July: There are over 3,000,000 people without shelter, food or clothing. This is a dire and sad situation.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39005094/ns/world_news-south_and_central_asia/

Hurricane Earl throws Birds off Course:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39038723/ns/technology_and_science-science/

Dozen killed, missing in Guatemala Landslides:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39016275/ns/world_news-americas/

Amazon headed towards another significant drought (worst in 40 years):

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38999896/ns/world_news-americas/

Labor Day Wildfires Rage in Oklahoma and Colorado:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/09/07/wildfires/index.html>

Time Lapse video of Boulder, CO Fire: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfXlqbfexs>

92 Structures lost, 3,000 evacuated in Colorado:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39038990/ns/weather/>

Weather Humor: As we transition from Summer to Fall, this joke seems to fit. Especially with all the kids in school, and parents complaining about them being sick already. ☺

