

January 2015 Precipitation Summary

January turned out to be a fairly active month with what seemed like one low pressure system after the next. Listed below are the highlights:

January 4: The 4th was the warmest day of the month with most locations reaching the 70 degree mark. Showers occurred ahead of a cold front. Rainfall averaged less than 0.25 inches. Much higher amounts were reported in Northeast North Carolina (including Elizabeth City) with 0.50 to 1.00 inches received at a few locations.

January 12: A complex area of low pressure moving into the region from the southwest and an approaching cold front from the north brought precipitation to the area. The morning featured an onshore flow and low level wedging. Areas near the Virginia and North Carolina border received the heaviest rainfall with 1.00 to 2.00 inches. A little over 1.00 inch of rain was reported across portions of the Lower Eastern Shore. Most other areas received 0.50 to 1.00 inch of rain.

January 14: Another system to impact the Mid Atlantic Region had a similar set-up to the January 12th event, but there was a stronger high pressure to the north. Temperatures were below freezing throughout the day over interior areas of Virginia/Northeast North Carolina where freezing rain occurred during the morning. Most locations received around 0.30 to 0.70 inches of precipitation. A few locations along the coast received 0.70 to 1.00 inches of rain. Locations to the south and west within the NWS Wakefield forecast area only got 0.10 to 0.25 inches of precipitation.

January 18: Low pressure near the coast in the morning and a cold front approaching from the west brought the first of two rainfall events that accounted for the most significant widespread precipitation. Rainfall was generally from 0.75 to 1.50 inches. A swath of heavier precipitation dropped 1.50 to 2.00 inches over a few locations from Central Virginia to the Maryland Lower Eastern Shore. Once again, locations to the south and west received slightly lesser amounts with 0.50 to 0.75 inches of precipitation reported/observed.

January 23-24: A southern stream low pressure system moved from the Gulf of Mexico to the Southeast States and then tracked northeast along the Mid Atlantic Coast. This system provided the next (or second) round of widespread rainfall on the order of 0.75 to 1.50 inches. A few places on the Maryland Lower Eastern Shore had rainfall totals that approached 2.00 inches. Other locations from Williamsburg to South Central Virginia received 0.50 to 0.75 inches of rain during this event.

Precipitation Totals for January 2015

For the first month of 2015, highest rainfall amounts of generally over 4.00 inches occurred mostly outside of interior Virginia (i.e. in Northeast North Carolina and across the Maryland Lower Eastern Shore). Over 5.00 inches fell at several locations across the Maryland Lower Eastern Shore with 5.51 inches at the Ocean City Municipal Airport. The southern half of Northeast North Carolina received from 4.00 to 5.00 inches as did

the Virginia Lower Eastern Shore. This left most of interior Virginia with 3.00 to 4.00 inches.

