

# **This Day in Weather History**

## **August**

**Minnesota State Climatology Office: DNR Waters**

August 1

1955 A thunderstorm in Becker County dumped a foot of rain at Callaway.

August 2

1831 Cold outbreak across state with light frost reported at Ft. Snelling.

August 3

1896 Violent hailstorm destroys two thirds of crops in Swift County.

August 4

1898 Storms dump 4 and-a half inches of rain on Montevideo.

August 5

1904 Detroit Lakes woman is hit by lightning. It melted her hairpins and steel in corset but does not kill her.

August 6

1866 Torrential rain dumps 10.30 inches at Sibley in 24 hours. Widespread flooding occurs washing out bridges and drowning many people. In Fillmore County it is known as the "Wisel Flood" because 3 members of the Wisel family perished in the flood.

1969 Tornadoes sweep across north, hitting Ely, Backus, Outing and Dark Lake.

Damage could still be seen 20 years later in the BWCA.

August 7

1863 Forest City observer sees what he calls a "perfect tornado." He noted that it "drove principally from west to east and lasted about one half hour."

1896 Final day of a massive heat wave with 104 at Le Sueur and Mazeppa.

1955 The climate record of George W. Richards of Maple Plain ends. He recorded weather data with lively notations on phenology and weather events. He began taking observations when he was eleven in 1883. He continued to take observations for 72 years, with 66 years as a National Weather Service Cooperator.

1968 7.09 inches of rain fell at Mankato. 1,200 homes had slight to heavy damage. Highways 169 and 22 were blocked by mud slides.

August 8

1882 August snowstorm on Lake Michigan. 6 inches of slush on ship decks. Snow showers on shore.

August 9

1948 7.72 inches of rain at Mankato.

August 10

1939 Cloudburst at Two Harbors. 5.2 inches of rain fell.

2004 Cool Canadian air was ushered in on strong northwest winds. International Falls had its coldest high temperature ever for August with 49 degrees. The Twin Cities only saw a high of 59.

August 11

1899 A lightning bolt from "clear skies" destroys a storefront in Fisher, Polk County.

1945 Downpour over Red Wing. nearly 8 inches of rain fell.

August 12

1821 The end of an eight-day heat wave at Ft. Snelling. Temperatures were in the 90's each day.

2000 Record setting dew points in Minnesota. The Twin Cities had a dew point of 76 with a rare 80-degree dew point at Faribault.

August 13

1831 Weird blue sun observed over southern U.S.

1964 A taste of fall over area with 26 in Bigfork and 30 in Campbell.

August 14

1978 Boundary Waters area hit by a tornado, some of the damage could still be seen 10 years later.

August 15

1936 St. Paul swelters with a high of 108.

August 16

1981 Chilly across the state with Tower reporting a low of 33 degrees.

August 17

1946 A tornado kills 11 people in the Mankato area around 6:52PM. A 27 ton road grader was hurled about 100 feet. Another tornado an hour later destroys downtown Wells.

August 18

1953 Four heifers near St. Martin were lucky. A tornado picked them up and set them back down again, unharmed.

August 19

1980 Strong winds at Belle Plaine severely damage five planes.

August 20

1904 Both downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul hit by tornadoes. This was the highest official wind ever recorded in Minnesota over one minute (110 mph in St. Paul.)

August 21

1883 4th deadliest tornado in Minnesota history hits Rochester. The tornado killed 31 residents and injured 100 more. Appalled by the lack of medical care received by the tornado's victims, Mother Alfred Moes, founder of the Sisters of St. Francis, proposes to build and staff a hospital if Dr. W.W. Mayo will provide medical care. St. Marys Hospital opens in 1889 with 27 beds and eventually grows into the Mayo Clinic.

1886 High winds hit Northfield with winds blowing at 60 mph for 20 minutes. The peak gusts were from 75 to 80 mph.

1918 3rd Deadliest tornado strikes Tyler and destroys the downtown area, leaving 36 dead.

August 22

1870 Downpours across southern Minnesota with 5 inches at Sibley, 3.49 at Ft. Snelling. Much of the wheat crop was damaged.

1910 Daylight is dimmed in Duluth due to smoke from Rocky Mountain forest fires.

August 23

1955 Hail in Houston County, with piles to a foot deep at Rushmore.

August 24

1934 Early arctic blast over state. Rochester and Fairmont have lows of 34 degrees.

2006 Tornadoes and large hail strike southern Minnesota. One person died and 37 were injured when a strong tornado began 4 miles west-southwest of Nicollet in Nicollet County and moved almost due east for 33 miles to near Waterville in Le Sueur County. Many storm chasers captured the tornado on video. The largest hail reported was grapefruit-sized at New Praeger in Scott County.

August 25

1875 Tornado strikes near Hutchinson.

1976 Roy Lake Fire. 2,600 acres burned during drought.

August 26

1915 Severe cold and killing frosts across Minnesota with 23 degrees at Roseau.

1883 Krakatoa blows up in a violent eruption. It could be heard as far away as Texas....3,000 miles away. A red cloud of high altitude dust circled the earth and dropped temperatures. Fire engines were called out in New York City to fight the apparent fires.

August 27

1992 A chilly night in Embarrass. The temperature dipped to 28 degrees.

August 28

1989 Baseball-sized hail pummels Pequot Lakes.

August 29

1863 A devastating killing frost affected most of Minnesota, killing vines and damaging corn.

1948 An airliner crashed during a thunderstorm near Winona, killing 37 people on board.

August 30

1977 Flooding on the southwest side of the Twin Cities, with the international airport getting 7.28 inches of rain in 4 1/2 hours.

August 31

1947 Tornado hits Le Center, killing one person.

1949 Earliest snowfall known for Minnesota. A trace of snow fell at the new Duluth Airport.