



INTO THE VORTEX

The **Polar Vortex** has a grip on North America, with no signs of letting go.

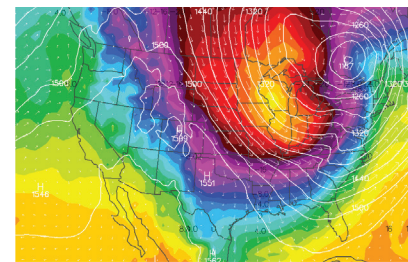
BY STEVEN SMITH

As fall 2014 takes form, no relief is in sight from the historic drought and raging wildfires in the West. While the West undergoes another period of heat and dryness, the Southwest, Texas will experience a soggy end to 2014. For the Northeast, blasts of winterlike air will arrive early this fall, serving as a reminder of last winter's brutality. As wild weather unfolds across the nation, the tropics will also ramp up, putting the eastern coast of the United States at the highest risk for a direct impact. While the fall kicks off with days of sunshine and temperatures above normal in some of the region's largest cities, including New York City and Philadelphia, the polar vortex may make its return for short, sporadic periods in September. "The vortex could slip at times, maybe even briefly in September for the Northeast," AccuWeather Lead Long-Range Forecaster Paul Pastelok said. "There could be a significant shot of chilly air that comes across the Great Lakes region and into the interior Northeast sometime in mid- to late-September."

As conditions in Canada begin to set up similar to last fall, getting colder and unsettled quickly, it's likely that this pattern could become a source for colder air to make its way down at times into the United States, inducing a drop in temperatures for the interior Northeast during mid-fall. "Temperatures will not be as extreme in November when compared to last year, but October could be an extreme month," Pastelok said.

After short-lived days of the polar vortex in September, the weather should turn a bit warmer in November as rain ramps up across areas from New York City to Boston, Portland, Maine, as well as the rest of the region. "We will see some dry weather in the Northeast, barring any tropical systems, in September and October but in November it will get wet," Pastelok said.

Following a soaking November for Northeastern residents, El Niño will debut early this winter, fueling early winter snow across the area. "December could get kind of wild due to the very active southern jet stream that is going to provide the moisture for bigger snowstorms," Pastelok said. "The Northeast could have a couple of big storms in December and early January." The Northeast, the trend for the northern Plains and northeastern Rockies will sway more winterlike, as early snow and cold air blast the area this fall.



Off the Charts

The historic freezing temperatures are not just busting pipes, they're busting records. The season's first frost and freeze was seen for parts of the Rockies, Plains, Northwest, and Upper Midwest this week. Numerous record lows and record cold daytime highs were set as well. Snow blanketed parts of the Rockies and High Plains, setting records in some locations. A frosty start to Saturday was found for many parts in the Rockies, Plains and Upper Midwest as the fall air invaded the U.S. behind a strong cold front.

Dog Gone Cold!

Keepin' our fuzzy friends sane and safe during the cold months.

BY AMELIA BANKS

Winter's cold air brings many concerns for responsible dog owners. Keep the following precautions in mind: Don't leave your dog outside in the cold for long periods of time. Wind chill makes days colder than actual temperature readings. Be attentive to your dog's body temperature, and limit its time outdoors.

Adequate shelter is important. Keep your dog warm, dry and away from drafts. Tiles and uncarpeted areas may become cold, so make sure to place blankets and pads on floors in these areas. Be extra careful when walking or playing with your dog near frozen lakes, rivers or ponds. Your dog could slip or jump in and get seriously injured. Groom your dog regularly. Short- or coarse-haired dogs may get extra cold, so consider a sweater or coat.

Long-haired dogs should have excess hair around the toes and foot pads trimmed to ease snow removal and cleaning. Feed your dog additional calories if it spends a lot of time outdoors or is a working animal. Towel or blow-dry your dog if it gets wet from rain or snow. It's important to dry and clean its paws, too. This helps avoid tiny cuts and cracked pads. Don't leave your dog alone in a car without proper precautions. If the engine is off, the temperature in the car will get too cold.



Looking ahead offers no end in sight for the Midwestern States



SCIENCE NOW

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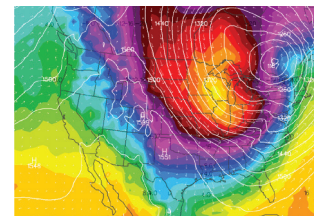
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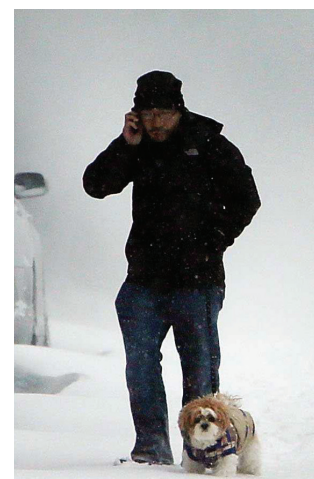
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Going out in bad weather is a challenge for dogs and their owners