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### **Wet October for Central Midwest**

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Indiana experienced its second wettest October on record, while Illinois and Michigan both experienced their third wettest October. October rainfall in Kentucky and Ohio was the seventh highest. The Midwestern Regional Climate Center located at the Illinois State Water Survey in Champaign reports the high rainfall amounts in the central Midwest during the month contributed to the fifth highest October average rainfall for the nine-state Midwest region (Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio). Precipitation was above normal for all states except Minnesota and Wisconsin. Temperatures were one to three degrees below normal, except for eastern Indiana and Ohio where temperatures for October were about one degree above normal.

The state average rainfall for Indiana was 7.95 inches for October, the second highest total in the past 107 years. The record for the month stands at 8.51 inches, set in 1919. The statewide average rainfall for Illinois totaled 6.53 inches, well short of the record of 9.27 inches set in October 1941. Michigan's state average rainfall was 5.65 inches, only a tenth of an inch short of the record of 5.73 inches set in 1954. Average October precipitation for Indiana is 2.84 inches, for Illinois 2.78 inches, and for Michigan 2.75 inches.

The wettest period during the month was October 10-16. A total of more than four inches of rain fell in eastern Illinois and western Indiana, and an area encompassing the remainder of the southeastern half of Illinois and the rest of Indiana received more than three inches. Precipitation totals were up to five inches more than normal for the week, and above normal throughout the entire Midwest. The core of the rainy area received more than 5.50 inches of rain for the week, seven times the normal amount.

The largest rain producer moved through the Midwest October 13-16. This storm tapped Gulf of Mexico moisture, and a swath of moderate to heavy rain extended all the way from the Gulf to Canada. The heavy rain produced flooding in some parts of Indiana and in the Chicago area. The Wabash River near Montezuma, IN, reached 6 feet above flood stage at the end of the period. The flooding Wabash was located under an area that received four to six inches of rain between October 10 and 16. Flooding affected mostly rural areas and farm fields.

The last major weather producer came through the Midwest on October 23 and 24. A strong cold front generated a severe weather outbreak unusual for late fall. Thunderstorms dropped another inch of rain on many locations. Northern sections of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan experienced their first significant snow of the season. The severe weather outbreak on the 24th resulted in 19 tornado, 72 severe hail, and 285 severe wind preliminary storm reports to the Storm Prediction Center. This was the strongest October tornado outbreak in the Midwest since the famous outbreak of October 14, 1966, which produced 26 tornadoes predominantly in the western Midwest, including an F5 in Wright County in north-central Iowa that killed 6, injured 172, and caused \$25 million in damage.