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In This Issue

Severe Weather

[Quiet from Coast to Coast](#)

[Late Season Twister](#)

[Outbreak](#)

[Alaska Ablaze](#)

Request Weather Services

[Case of the Week](#)

[Testimonials](#)

[Sample Expert Report](#)

[FAQ's](#)

[Home Page](#)

What's Hot

[Severe Weather Tips](#)

[Decoder Charts](#)

[Weather Calculator](#)

[Weather Glossary](#)

[Tomorrow's Temp](#)

[Current National Radar](#)

[Current National Map](#)

WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

Week of August 22, 2005

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Attn: Claims Managers and Litigation Specialists

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WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

TRAVEL WEATHER

QUIET FROM COAST TO COAST: An unusual week coming up in the sense that the weather, overall, looks relatively quiet. A dome of high pressure will keep things storm free in New York City, Boston and Philadelphia all week long. In Chicago, the only potential problem day is Thursday, as a front touches off a few showers and thunderstorms. On the West Coast, both San Francisco and Los Angeles will feature dry weather. Low clouds and fog can be expected in both locations during the first part of the morning. The Atlanta and Charlotte hubs will see fewer than normal thunderstorms this week. The western part of the Gulf of Mexico will need to be monitored for the possibility of tropical low formation late in the week. If this occurs, it could affect travel plans to locations in the Southeast next weekend and into the first part of next week.

UPPER MIDWEST

LATE SEASON TWISTER OUTBREAK: On the **busiest day ever for tornadoes** in the state of **Wisconsin**, 28 of them touched down statewide last Thursday, with 18 in an area less than 100 miles wide. In an average year, 21 tornadoes occur across the entire state. **Witnesses describe the damage as "beyond comprehension"**. Early estimates put the cost of the destruction at \$20 million. Sixty-nine homes were completely destroyed and nearly 400 were severely damaged. Dozens of people received injuries but miraculously, only one person lost his life. A state of emergency was declared by Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle in two of the hardest hit counties. Preliminary investigations suggest that **several of the twisters churned up winds as high as 200 miles per hour**.

WESTERN U.S.

ALASKA ABLAZE: More than 100 fires across the state have created a health hazard in several Alaskan cities, including Fairbanks. **Heavy smoke from the wildfires is expected to blanket the city for at least several more days** before persistent light winds increase and change direction, which should aid in clearing the air. Hazardous levels of particulates as a result of the smoke have prompted health officials to issue advisories which warn residents to avoid physical exertion when outside of their homes. Hot, dry weather and poor visibility is slowing fire crews down. Communities statewide have been choked by smoke in recent weeks. In the town of Unalakleet, **the air has been clogged with smoke since early August. In Nome, the entire horizon has been blocked out by thick smoke for several days.**

COMPU-WEATHER CASE OF THE WEEK

TOO COLD FOR SNOW TO MELT?

Three days after a storm dropped eight inches of snow across southeastern New York, a 56-year old man slipped and fell in a shopping center parking lot in Westchester County. He sustained injuries to his right hip, right shoulder and head as a result of the fall. The man stated that he had slipped on a patch of ice present in the parking lot near a large pile of snow, which had been created by the plowing of the lot three days prior. His attorney obtained the weather records from the closest observing site to the shopping center in hopes that it would clearly show a temperature profile indicating a melt and re-freeze cycle, between the time the snow ended and the time her client slipped. If this was apparent, then it could be stated that snow from the built-up snow bank had melted, run off and then re-froze into an icy surface. To the dismay of the attorney, the daily temperature records indicated that it had been very cold in the days following the storm. Daytime highs were only in the mid 20s, while overnight lows were in the teens and single digits. So much for the

melt/re-freeze theory. Or so it seemed.

The attorney called on the expertise of COMPU-WEATHER to help explain how the ice had developed. The meteorologist assigned to the case did a complete analysis of the weather from the day of the snowstorm, up to the time of the accident. Using the same data that the attorney had looked at and data from additional sources, the explanation for the patch of ice "slipped right into place". Just looking at the high and low temperatures was not sufficient in this particular situation. In the two days after the snow ended, the sky was clear and sunny all day long. This was a key point as snow - and especially freshly fallen snow - will begin to melt in temperatures as cold as 24 or 25 degrees when direct sunlight is present. But shortly after sunset and after the effect of direct sunlight dissipates, melted snow will re-freeze very rapidly while any remaining snow on the ground becomes more hard-packed. Further, when snow is made into large piles, a certain amount of compression takes place due to the weight of the snow. This causes snow on the bottom of the pile to compress and under the right circumstances? To melt.

The professional analysis by COMPU-WEATHER made it very simple to explain how ice formed in the parking lot. With the key factor being that 32 degrees is not the "magic number" for snow to melt or water to freeze. Those two events can, and usually do, take place at a temperature lower than 32 degrees. The case never went to trial, as the information provided by COMPU-WEATHER proved pivotal in securing a favorable settlement for the Plaintiff.

Did you know that Compu-Weather's Expert Reports help settle 98.5% of all our customers' weather-related cases and claims prior to litigation?

For a no-obligation initial consultation regarding your weather-related case or claim, call us at (800) 825-4445 or click the link below and we'll get back to you shortly !!

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