

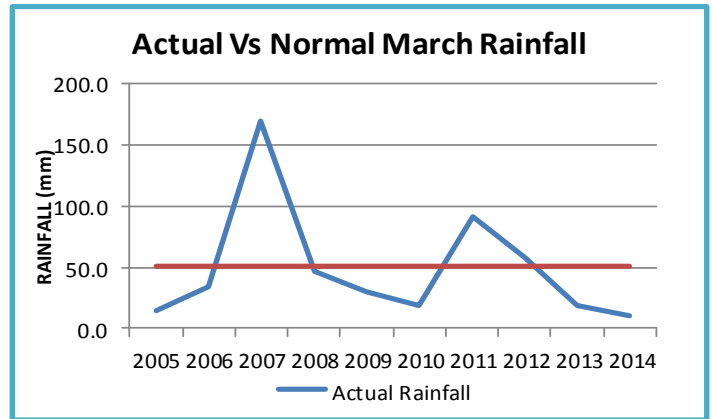
Weather & Climate

Volume 2, Issue 14

March 2015

NORMAL MARCH CONDITIONS

Rainfall Total	32.3 mm – 58.3 mm	1 – 2 in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	9 days	
Daily Average Temperature	25.5°C – 26.0 °C	78 – 79°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	29°C	85 °F
Avg. Min. Temperature	23°C	73°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	9 hrs	



We are in the the dry season !.

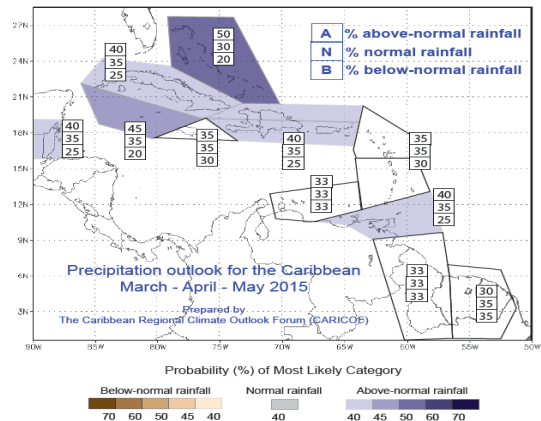
Rainfall for the month of March over the past 10 years had been below-normal 7 out of 10 years.

Seasonal Outlook for March to May 2015

According to the Caribbean Outlook Forum : www.cimh.edu.bb/?p=precipoutlook

The precipitation outlook for the season 'March –May' is hardly predictable at this time. Normal rainfall for this season ranges between 162.5—262.0 mm/6-10in. March and April represent the latter part of the dry season while May often marks a transition into the wet season.

Temperature for most of the Caribbean is forecast to be near-normal to above-normal for the same period.



Recent observations show that the sea surface temperatures in the Eastern Pacific are nearly 0.5°C above average. Some models are indicating that temperatures will remain the same while others indicate a slight increase for this season. A weak El Nino may develop.

El Nino is associated with drier conditions across the Caribbean.

Antigua & Barbuda, Jamaica and Haiti are experiencing water shortages.

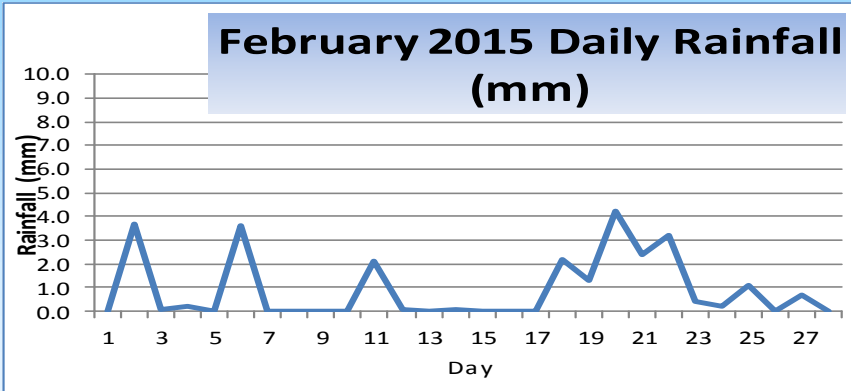
NEGATIVE IMPACTS:

This season:

- ◆ Increase risks of bush fires & heat stress during drier periods.
- ◆ Limited risk of vector borne diseases.

FEBRUARY 2015 IN REVIEW

Rainfall for February was 53% below the normal monthly total. This is the third consecutive month that rainfall has been below-normal. There were no significant rainfall events during this month. The Atlantic High Pressure System dominated thus generating breezy and dry conditions.



The normal rainfall for February ranges from 31.1–57.0 mm/ 1-2in.

The day with the most rainfall was the 20th (4.2mm/0.2in.).

The longest dry spell during the month of February was 6 days.

Total Rainfall	25.6 mm	1.0 in.
2015 Cumulative Rainfall	65.1 mm	2.6 in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	Feb. 20th	4.2 mm/ 0.2 in.
No. Rain Days (>=1.0 mm)	9 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (>=10.0 mm)	0 day	
No. Thunderstorm Days	0 day	
Avg. Wind Speed	10 kts.	12 mph
Max. Wind Gust	Feb. 27th & 28th	31 kts. / 36 mph
Avg. Temperature	26.3 °C	79 °F
Max. Temperature	Feb. 11th	29.5 °C / 85 °F
Min. Temperature	Feb. 22nd & 23rd	21.7 °C / 71 °F

For 3 consecutive months rainfall has been below normal!

The temperatures recorded during the month of February ranged from above-normal to below-normal

The warmest day was the 11th with an average temperature of 27.2°C/81°F.

The days with the most sunshine hours were the 5th & 16th (10hrs :42 min).

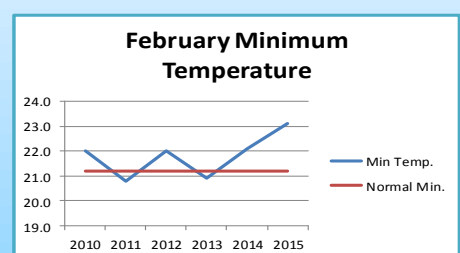
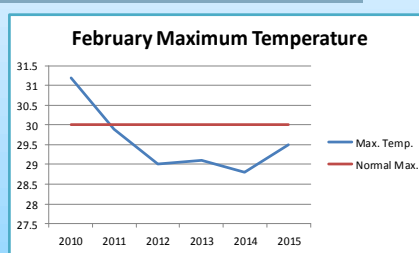
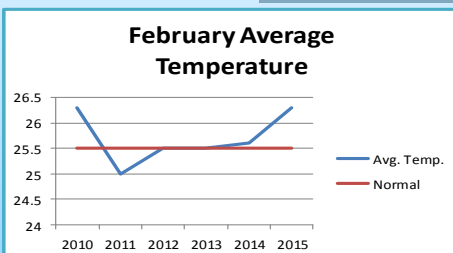
The day with the least sunshine hours was the 12th (5 hr: 06min)

The windiest day was the 28th, with a daily average wind speed of 14 kts. / 16 mph.

Skies were fair to partly cloudy during the month of February.

February Temperature Trends

Normals (1981-2010)



- ◆ February's **daily average** and **minimum temperatures** have varied a lot over the past few years.
- ◆ February's **maximum temperatures** indicates that the days are **not as hot as they used to** over the last 4 years

This newsletter is produced by the Meteorological Department of St. Maarten. We would appreciate your comments and feedback. Kindly drop us a line at meteo@sintmaartengov.org, fax at (1 721) 545 2998 or call us at (1 721) 545 2024/ 545 4226.