

Minnesota Now (MPR) | Minnesota Now - Sven Sundgaard 01G669Q6SAX7P3NZK23ZPJXSKM

CATHY WURZER: You don't need me to tell you it's been hot. This is the second full day of Summer 2022. Steamy weather is to be expected, but holy moly, Monday was extreme. More hot and sticky weather is on tap tomorrow and Friday. Meteorologist Sven Sundgaard is here to give us the weather news and the story behind some of these high temperatures we've been experiencing. Hey. Welcome back to the program.

SVEN Thanks for having me.

SUNDGAARD:

CATHY Absolutely.

WURZER:

SVEN How are you?

SUNDGAARD:

CATHY I am fine. I'm still on the air after you and I talked earlier this morning. So, it's still going. Hey, let's talk a little bit

WURZER: about Monday, because that's what everyone remembers, is the sweat fest that we had. How many records were set Monday?

SVEN Well, in the Twin Cities alone, we broke two records. The high temperature, of course, got all the glory, because
SUNDGAARD: 101 is a big deal, but we also broke a record warm overnight low of 79, kind of shattered that. The old one was 75 set in 1943. And the record high for the day, it did break the old record of 98 set back in the Dust Bowl years of 1933.

CATHY And let's talk a little bit about these 100 degree temperatures. We don't see 100 degrees very often around
WURZER: these parts.

SVEN Yeah, it is pretty infrequent. In our current 30-year normals, it happens about once every five years on average.
SUNDGAARD: The last time we did it was four years ago, Memorial weekend, and then before that it was 2012. So, this was the hottest day, Monday, in 10 years, the last time we got above that 100 degree reading.

But it's really rare to do it in June. Normally when we hit 100 degrees, it's in July, 71% of the time. So, this is kind of a trend where Junes are getting hotter. Summer's starting a little bit earlier and a little bit more extreme. So, undoubtedly climate change is at least partly a factor in this. So, the fact that we did it in June almost makes it more remarkable than if we had done it in July.

CATHY OK, and that's the key here in terms of potential signal of climate change, because I was going to say, we've seen
WURZER: similar temperatures, very hot conditions back in the 1930s, as you say, the Dust Bowl era.

SVEN Yeah, in the 1930s, we had a lot of, you know, it stands out as an anomaly still the 1930s, the Dust Bowl era. But
SUNDGAARD: there have been some studies done, attribution studies done, recently that have actually put fingerprints of human caused climate change on the 1930s.

It might have been one of the first really obvious signals of what we had been doing in the atmosphere for, at that point, 50 years or so, plus the combination of land use. We hadn't quite figured out the agricultural practices that we know today.

So, when we look at our 150 years of records, if we look at the first 50 years of the Twin Cities' records, 1873 to 1923, we had seven days of 100 plus temperatures. But when we look at our most recent 50 years, we've had 18 days of 100 plus. So, there is definitely a little trend to see more of those extreme temperatures, but you have to look a little harder.

CATHY Interesting. Wow, I didn't know that. So, maps are showing this heat dome is covering a big chunk of the country.
WURZER:

SVEN Yeah, we've all kind of been taking turns like a pinball machine. It's been kind of saying to the South, just to our
SUNDGAARD: south, literally today. It's going to move back in tomorrow and Friday, but not as extreme as what we had earlier in the week certainly. And then the trend is to push it into the Northwest.

You know, poor Seattle, hasn't even hit 80 yet this year, but it looks as though they're finally going to do that this weekend. So, they're calling it a heat wave, even though they're not going to hit 90, but a couple of days in the 80s there. And then that heat could be headed towards us again by the end of next week, we might be talking 90 again.

CATHY So, it's interesting to see with that heat on Monday, noticing that some grass is looking a little crunchy already.
WURZER: So, are we below normal in precipitation?

SVEN Yeah, it depends where you're talking. Northern Minnesota still pretty good. Of course, they had quite the
SUNDGAARD: surplus. But basically a swath of the Twin Cities, New Ulm, even up to St. Cloud and then into western Wisconsin, so the central part of the state, we've only seen about 1/2 of our normal precipitation.

And so, our soil moisture is right now are in the bottom 5% for this time of year when we look at the top several inches. So, if we continue to get these hot, dry sunny days, that's going to dry things out pretty quickly.

CATHY Do we have any storms in the forecast?
WURZER:

SVEN We have some. It's not going to be a widespread soaking, which starts to get typical this time of year. We rely on
SUNDGAARD: those spotty thunderstorms, but at least the chance is there. Starting tomorrow night into Friday and Saturday, a cool front swings in. We're going to see more humidity, which is, of course, an important ingredient for all this.

But it is going to be pretty hit and miss. Looks like the northern 1/2 of the state has the best chance of seeing more widespread measurable precipitation and a little less in the southern part of the state. The average of the models for the Twin Cities is that a 1/4 inch or less, which does not make up for what we need.

CATHY Looks like we may see some isolated severe thunderstorms, possibly tomorrow?
WURZER:

SVEN Yeah, we've got a marginal risk for mostly northern Minnesota, which is a level one out of five, but you can't rule
SUNDGAARD: it out this time of year, but we're not looking at probably a repeat of what we had Monday night.

CATHY OK, because gosh, there are some areas of northern Minnesota that were really hit by severe weather.
WURZER:

SVEN Yeah, northern and western Minnesota had a lot of wind damage reports. Gusts as high as 91 miles an hour, just east of Grand Forks, and a lot of 70 mile per hour wind gusts. So, folks are still cleaning up up there.

CATHY All right. I'll talk to you tomorrow morning. How does that sound?

WURZER:

SVEN That sounds good. I'm going to be on in the afternoon too, with Tom Grant.

SUNDGAARD:

CATHY You're everywhere. You're everywhere.

WURZER:

SVEN You can't get rid of me, Cathy.

SUNDGAARD:

CATHY That's fine, Sven, I like that. All right, have a good day.

WURZER:

SVEN OK. You too.

SUNDGAARD:

CATHY That's our meteorologist Sven Sundgaard. He does join me every morning on "Morning Edition" here on "MPR News."

WURZER: