

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
WEATHER BUREAU  
Washington, D.C.

May 18, 1955

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Area and State Climatologists, Section Centers, Substation Inspectors, Field Aides, WRPCs, River District Offices, and Area Engineers. (With copies to Regional Offices for information.)

FROM: Climatological Services Division

SUBJECT: Climatological Service Memorandum No. 47

GENERAL

1. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CLIMATOLOGY: An Advisory Committee on Climatology has been established by the National Research Council, at the request of the Chief of the Weather Bureau.

The members of this committee are:

Chairman  
Dr. Thomas F. Malone  
Director of Travelers Insurance Co.  
Weather Research Center  
Hartford, Conn.

Dr. Werner A. Baum  
Editor, Journal of Meteorology  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, Fla.

Dr. Phillip E. Church  
Dept. of Meteorology and Climatology  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Wash.

Dr. A. O. Kuhn  
Head, Dept. of Agronomy  
University of Maryland  
College Park, Md.

Dr. J. H. Longwell  
Dean, School of Agriculture  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, Mo.



The first meeting was held in Climatological Services Division on April 28 and 29, 1955. The Bureau's climatological program was out-

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lined in some detail by members of the Division, as shown by the following agenda.

1. Organization of climatological work in the Weather Bureau
  - a. Central Office (Suitland, Md.) Dr. Landsberg
  - b. Asheville Mr. Leslie Smith
  - c. Weather Records Processing Centers Mr. J. H. Hagarty
  - d. Field Service, present and planned Mr. C. K. Vestal
2. Networks for Climatological Observations
  - a. 24-hourly network
  - b. Sub-stations Mr. J. H. Hagarty
  - c. Climatic bench-mark stations
  - d. Upper air stations Mr. B. Ratner
  - e. Plans for specialized observations Mr. H. B. Harshbarger
3. Routine Processing and Storage of Observations
  - a. Present practices Mr. H.B.Harshbarger
  - b. Development work in progress and planned and Mr. Julius Bosen
4. Routine Publications
  - a. Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin
  - b. Climatological Data, National Summary
  - c. Climatological Data, Local and State Mr. R. W. Schloemer
  - d. Summaries for stations and states
  - e. Climatic data for Northern Hemisphere and World Mr. Joseph Berry
5. Special Projects
  - a. Upper Air Summaries Mr. B. Ratner
  - b. Climatological Atlas Mr. R. W. Schloemer
  - c. Data Surveys of foreign stations Mr. Joseph Berry
  - d. Marine and ocean projects
  - e. Working fund arrangements Mr. W. H. Haggard
6. Development work
  - a. Synoptic
  - b. Agro-and Bioclimatology Dr. Landsberg,
  - c. Plans Mr. Haggard et al

After this presentation of the program the committee made a number of constructive comments and suggestions. Among them were:

1. Suggestions for areas to be served by the area climatologists.
2. A suggestion that publication of average state data be discontinued, since such state averages have no scientific basis or real meaning. The committee will try to suggest new indices as substitutes.

30-year normals) of mean maximum and minimum temperatures by months for the above-stated years further disclosed definite inconsistencies.

Further investigation showed that the station was operated by the Nevada State Weather Service in these early years, and that no shelters were furnished for the instruments. In fact, a search of early Weather Bureau manuals on the installation, equipping, and operation of substations revealed that it was not until some time between 1895 and 1897 that shelters were furnished to such stations by the Weather Bureau. Earlier manuals recommended that shelters be built and installed by the observer, if he could afford it.

We suggest, therefore, that in all cases where substation and first-order station records are combined in the Local Climatological Data Annual, the State Climatologist investigate the record to see if the early data are reliable. All questionable values found should then be designated as such by appropriate footnotes. It is further suggested that, as time permits, early substation records (prior to 1900) be examined by the State Climatologist and, if found to contain questionable values, they should be so indicated.

4. PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON STORMS OF NEAR-DISASTER PROPORTIONS: It frequently happens that severe storms, tornadoes, blizzards or hurricanes are not confined to one state. In cases of near-disaster, or items of very great interest for large areas, there often is a demand for information. In such cases, it would be helpful if one person were made responsible for a preliminary total report within a week or ten days. Henceforth when such an event of near-disaster proportions occurs, the Climatological Services Division will request a particular state climatologist to write a preliminary report on the total storm effects.

Other climatologists involved in the storm area will continue their usual public information duties and will submit the prescribed regular reports.

5. DISCONTINUANCE OF THE TERM "KILLING FROST" OR "FREEZE": Since the term "killing frost" (or freeze) is almost entirely devoid of meaning unless specifically tied to a temperature or crop, its use should be discontinued. In general, expressions like the following:

"Last (or first) killing frost (or freeze)"

"A killing frost occurred at---- on ----."

"All danger of killing frost is past."

"Crops were damaged by a killing frost"

will be replaced by these:

"The last (or first) date of temperature below 32° (28°, 24° etc.)"

"Temperatures below 32° (28°, 24° etc.) occurred at ---- on ----."

"Danger of temperatures below 32° (28°, 24° etc.) is past."

"Temperatures below ---- killed ----(name) ---- crop."

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