

# An Entire Summer's Worth of Rain Fell on New York in Just a Few Hours August 13, 2014



A partially submerged car sits on a flooded section of Interstate 695 in Baltimore, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014, after heavy rains fell across the Mid-Atlantic region.

*IMAGE: PATRICK SEMANSKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS*  
**BY ANDREW FREEDMAN AUG 13, 2014**

The same unusually strong August storm system that brought five to eight inches of rain to the Detroit area on Monday night, paralyzing travel and flooding homes and businesses, dumped an entire summer's worth of rainfall on one Long Island town in just a few hours on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

In the New York City metro area early (**Wednesday August 13, 2014**) more than a foot of rain fell in just a few hours, causing extensive flooding on Long Island. As of 10 a.m. ET, Islip, New York had received 13.27 inches of rain, which set a preliminary state record for the heaviest 24-hour rainfall total in state history. This broke the previous record of 11.6 inches, set at Tannersville, New York in August of 2011 during Hurricane Irene. The pace of the rain was extreme, as Islip picked up 5.34 inches of rain between 5 and 6 a.m. ET, and another

4.37 inches in the following hour. Suffolk and Nassau Counties, New York were hardest hit.

In addition to the jackpot at Islip Macarthur Airport, West Islip received 11.5 inches of rain, also in less than 24 hours. To put this rainfall into perspective, consider that in a typical summer from June through July, Islip sees 11.75 inches of rain.

In addition, the rainfall record for the entire month of August is 13.78 inches, which means that Islip is tantalizingly close to setting a monthly rainfall record in less than 24-hours. The wettest single month on record there is 14.07 inches, set in October 2005, according to [weather.com](http://weather.com). Such rainfall amounts are typically associated with tropical storms and hurricanes in the Mid-Atlantic States.

On Tuesday at Baltimore-Washington International Airport, 6.30 inches of rain fell, breaking the daily rainfall record for the month, the record for that date, and coming in second on the list of all-time single day rainfall totals. The all-time daily rainfall record there rains the 7.62 inches of rain that fell during the Great Chesapeake Potomac Hurricane of 1933, the National Weather Service said. The town of Green Haven, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, recorded 10.32 inches of rain on Tuesday.

The storm system that sparked the heavy rains was unusual for the month of August because it had all the ingredients of a spring or fall storm — a strong low pressure area over the Great Lakes that reformed over the Mid-Atlantic, a pool of cold air aloft that dove southward out of Canada, and a plume of moisture from the tropics known as a "moist conveyor belt" that acted like a highway bringing in dense, tropical air to the affected states.

Flooding was severe in the areas that got the heaviest rainfall, with cars covered with water at the airport parking lots, streets made impassible, and water rescues taking place along creeks and rivers.

The narrow band of heaviest rainfall, within which several inches of rain fell in just a few hours, extended east into Delaware and then northeast across the Jersey coast. In Long Island, the deluge hit in the early morning hours on Wednesday, snarling the morning rush hour. The NWS said that within the area of heaviest rainfall, the rainfall was coming down at rates "exceeding four to five inches per hour." In Nassau County, Wantagh received 7.84 inches, and Merrick had 6.81 inches. The deluge narrowly missed New York City, with Brooklyn picking up a little more than an inch of rain.