

Climate Monitoring – Harding Icefield Weather Station

Vital Signs Monitoring - Southwest Alaska Network



Current Monitoring

The Harding Icefield weather station was deployed in July 2004. The station is located on a nunatak in the northern Harding Icefield at an elevation of 4,200 feet above sea level.

Site selection, station acquisition, deployment and maintenance has been a multi-agency effort involving the USGS - Water Resources Division, National Weather Service – River Forecast Center and the National Park Service (KEFJ, SWAN, ARO).

The Harding Icefield Weather Station is the first of several remote automated weather stations to be deployed in support of Climate Monitoring in the SWAN.

The station has operated for just over two years. Extreme weather is the norm at this site and the weather station tower and all sensors are functioning as designed. The station records and transmits weather observations hourly.

Current weather conditions and summary reports can be viewed on the Western Regional Climatic Center's web site at:

<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/rawMAIN.pl?akAHAR>

The Western Regional Climatic Center also serves as the depository for the permanent archive.

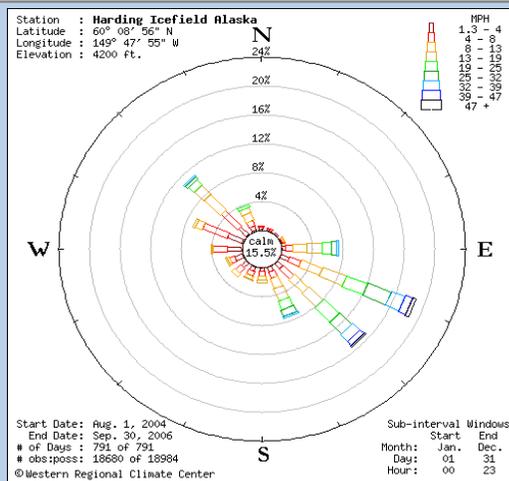


Harding Icefield, April 24, 2005

Weather Observation and Trends

Based on the two years of weather observations, some trends are becoming apparent.

- Wind Direction - There are two predominant wind directions, one from the southeast and one from the northwest as illustrated by the graph provided by the Western Regional Climatic Center.
- Highest one-minute wind gust of 117 mph occurred on September 21, 2006.
- Low temperature of -17 degrees Fahrenheit occurred on January 27, 2006.
- High temperature of 72 degrees Fahrenheit occurred on August 11, 2005.
- Average temperature of 28.7 degrees Fahrenheit for the one year period of August 1, 2004 to July 31, 2005.
- Average temperature of 25.9 degrees Fahrenheit for the one year period of August 1, 2005 to July 31, 2006.
- Average temperature of 27.3 degrees Fahrenheit for the two year period of August 1, 2004 to July 31, 2006



**Wind Rose Graph for the Harding Icefield
Weather Station. Aug 1, 2004 through
July 31, 2006.**

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