SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 1989 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA

Temperatures: January 1989 turned in a record of cool days and cool nights following a trend begun in September. The below-normal to much-below-normal winter temperature pattern began in mid-December 1988 and continue through most of the month, featuring periodic outbreaks of cold air derived from western Canada and Alaska. The month’s average high of 49.5°F is 2.0°F below the 38-year average with both nights and days contributing to the negative anomaly: 58.4°F vs 60.0°F for the highs and 40.7°F vs 43.0°F for the lows. Only six other Januaries in the past 38 years were colder.

High for the month, 75°F, was recorded on 20 Jan during a three-day respite from cold temperatures, while the month’s low, 33°F, was read on New Year’s Day. A few daily temperature records were set or broken. The 67°F high on 3 Jan matched the same record high in 1985. The 52°F high on 13 Jan was matched by an equally cool value in 1962, while the 51°F high on 14 Jan toppled the previous high of 52°F set in 1962. There were 16 minimums in the 30’s in January – only three other Januaries in 38 years exceeded that number (with 21 such days in Jan 1972).

Precipitation: January’s cold outbreaks varied from dry continental to moist North Pacific (Gulf of Alaska) air. The period 5-10 Jan was relatively we, giving most of the 1.56” that fell during six days of measurable rainfall in the month. January 1989 is the seventh driest Jan in 38 years of record keeping. January’s average is 3.87”, the most for any month of the year, with ten measurable rain days. At month’s end the rain-year (1 Jul to 30 Jun) total stood at 8.00” – 2.76” behind the 38-year average. Low January rain totals (in spite of the January AT&T Golf Tournament) gave a gloomy outlook on the local water supply picture, especially after following a two-month west streak.

Average for the total rain year (1 Jul to 30 Jun), based on 38-year records, is 18.76”. Only one year in the immediate past five has exceeded the value, namely 1 Jul 1985 to 30 Jun 1986 with 20.46”. In the same five-year periods two exceeded the 16.55” annual median (nots: half the years are associated with rainfall above and half with rainfall below the median value). The last two years have been the driest of the past five with 12.98” in 1986/1987 and 12.14” in 1987/1988, respectively.

The snow that fell Christmas day on the near-coastal mountains was still evident from local observation sites on 7 January.

Fog: Eleven days with one or more hours of fog in Jan 89 ranks the month with Jan 1974, 1981 and 1986 as the foggiest in 25 years of record-keeping. Like temperature, the foggier-than-normal trend started in Sep 1988.
**Wind:** It was a quiet month! The airport winds averaged 6.8 miles per hour (mph) based on hourly readings in the 6 AM to 11 PM period each day. The National Weather Climate Station’s average of daily high gusts was a low 15.5 mph. Average is 18.3 mph. Only one day (10 Jan) produced gusts in the 30's.

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NWS Climate Station, Monterey, CA

January 1989

![Graph showing temperature and precipitation data for January 1989.](image)

- **Temperature (degree F):**
  - Highest: 75
  - Lowest: 33

- **Precipitation (inches):**
  - Total: 1.56
  - Average: 40.7
  - Minimum: 25
  - Maximum: 33

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