

Every month in 2014 has been among warmest on record for Fresno

By Mark Grossi

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Brian Franz takes a moment to wipe away the sweat as he and Brad Fretz, both of New England Sheet Metal, worked in July heat to install new air conditioning ducting units on the roof of the Sanger City Hall.

JOHN WALKER — The Fresno Bee [Buy Photo](#)

Last month was the **warmest October on record in Fresno**. So I looked a little closer at the data and found a true eye-opener about Fresno this year — every month has been in the top 10 warmest on record.

Readers can debate about the climate connection. As scientists have explained global warming to me, it's not about one storm season or one year of data. Climate is discussed over centuries.

If we were going to have that talk, this would be a full-length Sunday feature, heavily populated with climatologists.

Instead, I'm just now reporting the warmth, because I've been more focused on this desperate drought than temperatures. After looking at the numbers, **Fresno** warmth this year has been nothing short of remarkable.

We're not talking about each month just barely making it into the list of top 10 warmest. The month of May was the seventh warmest on record. That was the lowest finish so far for 2014.

January and August were the second-warmest on record. October and February set records as the warmest. All the other months were third-, fourth- or fifth-warmest.

California has been in a three-year drought. So did this happen last year, too? How far back in the drought does this warm streak go?

I checked. The warm streak goes back 20 months, but 2013 wasn't nearly as warm as this year has been.

The run of warm months started **March 2013**, which was a hefty 5.5 degrees above average. It was the fourth-warmest March on record. March 2014 was third.

One other interesting bit: I figured the streak would stop in December 2013, since there were some low temperatures in the 20s and some citrus-damaging frosts. But **last December** actually finished slightly above average, too.

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