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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
Secretary, American Meteorological Society  
discusses:

FOURTH OF JULY WEATHER

Independence Day comes in the period when summer's maximum heat is approaching, and when, too, the air aloft is still somewhat cool from the left over effects of the winter and spring. The hotter the weather the greater the likelihood of a thunderstorm, especially when the higher levels of the atmosphere have not become heated. Then, too, there is the chance of the passing of a windshift line, which, in summer, often means a line of thunderstorms passing across the country. Still another foul weather hazard is the possible northeaster or southeaster to put a damper on every outdoor activity. Yet, in spite of the possibilities, the glorious Fourth is more frequently fair than otherwise. The chief danger lies in the local heat thunderstorm, which, as a rule, is confined to a comparatively brief interval of the late afternoon or early evening.

If the morning of the Fourth is hot and muggy and the air still, the chance of the thunderstorm in the late afternoon, following the hours of extreme heat, is very good indeed. On the other hand, if the morning is warm, but with life in the air, which means not too great a moisture content, then the chance is slight.

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(Tomorrow: Rain Insurance.)

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