

For Release  
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Temperature and the air: If a person with a thermometer were to rise vertically in a balloon, he would find that the temperature of the air would, on the average, fall 3.2 degrees for every 1000 feet of ascent. But, if a sample of free, dry air were to rise on its own hook, so to speak, it would cool at the rate of 5.3 degrees every 1000 feet. These are only average conditions, and an average condition is as infrequent in the air as in other things. For instance, the rate of cooling with elevation sometimes exceeds 5.3 degrees. Then the air is unstable and thunderstorms will result.

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