

# GLACIER Science Expo for the Media

Richard L. Thoman, Jr.

NOAA/National Weather Service

Alaska Region



# Alaska has been in the Headlines



**UPDATE: Stuart Creek 2 Wildfire Grows, Residents Evacuate Two Rivers**  
By Emily Schwing, KUAC - Fairbanks | July 8, 2013

Warm, dry and windy weather in the Fairbanks area over the weekend stoked the Stuart Creek 2 Wildfire burning east of Eielson Air Force Base.

Richard Hadley is a public information officer with an incident management team from California assigned to the fire. He says the fire grew to more than 64,000 acres Sunday, but firefighters have achieved 5 percent containment.



"We have a lot more line that's been built."



**Stunning Pics of Massive 30-Mile Ice Jam and Flooding That Lifted Alaska Homes Off Foundations**

May 30, 2013 10:23am | Lo Klimas



ANCHORAGE, Alaska (The Associated Press) — A colossal river ice jam that caused major flooding in a remote Alaska town was starting to chunk Wednesday as water finally chewed ice chunks away from the stubborn, frozen mass after most of the residents were forced to flee from the rising water.

**Fairbanks winter rainfall brings wave of accidents, closures**

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Posted: Thursday, January 23, 2014 5:45 pm | Updated: 6:25 am, Fri Jan 24, 2014.

Sam Friedman / sfriedman@newsminer.com  
**FAIRBANKS** - If it had fallen in the summer, the five-hundredths of an inch of rain reported at the Fairbanks airport Thursday morning would not be notable. Falling in mid-January, it was enough to turn area roads into ice rinks. A similar quantity of freezing rain is forecast to



**PBS NEWSHOUR**

TOPICS > SCIENCE

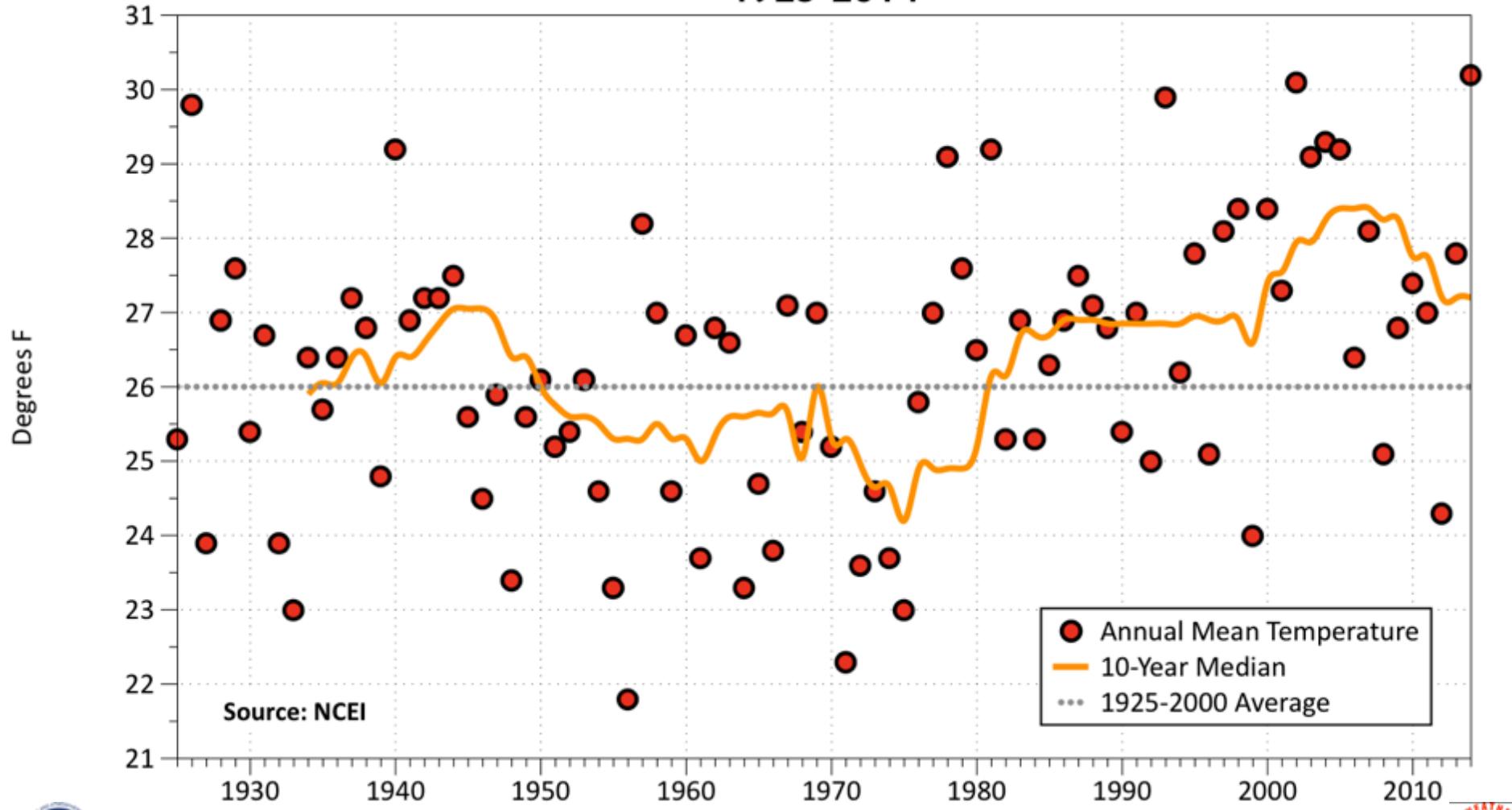
**In Alaska, Melting Ice Could Erode Way of Life**

BY MIKE FRITZ September 17, 2013 at 12:32 PM EST



# Alaska is Getting Warmer

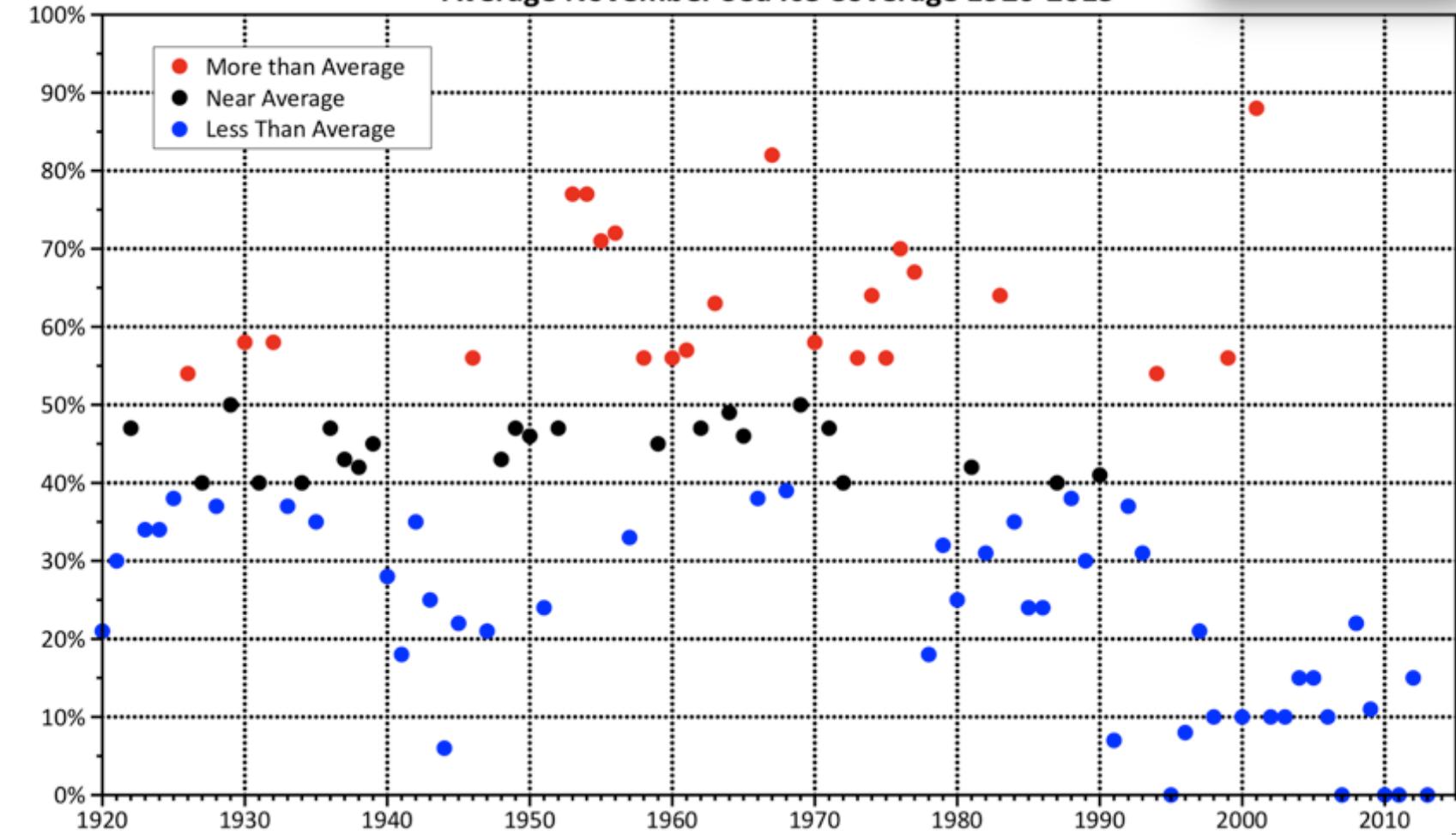
Alaska Mean Annual Temperature  
1925-2014



# Autumn Sea Ice is Declining



Offshore Shismaref (67N, 167W)  
Average November Sea Ice Coverage 1920-2013



# A warming Alaska means changes in snow & ice

- New and expanded hazards
- Decrease in snow and sea ice threatens cultural adaptations honed over dozens of generations
- Modern infrastructure built for a past environment
- Ecological changes, invasive species



Savoonga Jan 2011 Sea Spray Icing



Shishmaref Dec 2006 Coastal Flooding



# NOAA/National Weather Service

- Building a Weather *and Climate* Ready Nation
  - Building community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather and water events
- Decisions and actions based on sound science support healthy, productive, and resilient communities and ecosystems.



Fairbanks, 2010

