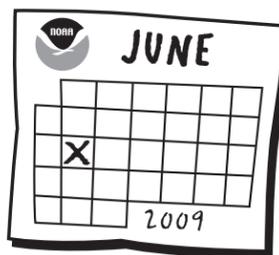


Hank Highwater's Monsoon Facts...



1. The word monsoon comes from the arabic word "MAUSIM", meaning "SEASON", because the storms return year after year. Monsoons bring much needed rain, but also flooding and damage.

2. Every Summer Pima County gets some strong thunderstorms. Monsoon watchers wait for the DEW-POINT to exceed 54 degrees for three days in a row. When that happens, the monsoon officially begins.



3. In 2008 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) determined that Arizona's monsoon will begin on June 15 and will end on September 30.



4. Although rare, monsoons can bring tornadoes too. Arizona averages four tornadoes each year.

5. Dangerous flooding can happen many miles downstream from a rain storm. Sometimes it takes hours for water in the mountains to reach desert washes.



To see a video of a real flash flood in Tucson visit my website!



<http://rfcd.pima.gov/outreach/hank/>