

Bumps in the Night!!!!

April 2013 Issue

Paranormal "U"

Humidity – Why is it important?

By Melissa Tanner, TnT Paranormal Investigators LLC

All paranormal investigators should have a basic understanding of the weather and how the weather can affect their equipment and the data produced by that equipment. Many believe that the weather can play a role in producing and/or fostering "paranormal activity". But in order to prove that you must first understand what parts of the weather can produce false positive results. One such part is Relative Humidity or more commonly known as Humidity.

Humidity Defined

Let's first define what humidity is. There are three main types of humidity: absolute, relative and specific. Absolute humidity is basically the water content of air. Relative humidity measures the current water content (absolute humidity) in the air compared to the maximum water vapor that air can hold for that temperature. Specific humidity is a ratio of the absolute humidity to the total air content on a mass basis. When someone refers to Humidity what they really mean is Relative Humidity. Humidity is an important part of the weather because it indicates the chance of precipitation, dew, and fog.

The human body is very sensitive to humidity, because our skin uses the air to release moisture from our bodies. This is done by sweating. Sweating is the body's way of trying to cool itself off naturally. If the humidity at 100%, our sweat will not evaporate into the air, thus makes us feel much hotter than the actual air temperature. If relative humidity is lower, our sweat will evaporate into the air, making us feel cooler than the actual air temperature.

Why is Humidity Important for a Paranormal Investigator?

Well there are really three possible answers to that question. First in the introduction of false positives; second because some paranormal investigators believe that more activity is documented in the drier, winter months; and third because there is a theory that temperature drops could be an indicator of paranormal activity, so, why couldn't dramatic humidity changes be an indicator as well.

False Positives

Here are several examples of how that can happen:

1. Humidity will allow you to "see your breath" in the cold air because the water vapor coming out in your breath is warmer than the air, thus producing a "fog". Your eyes may or may not see this "fog", but the camera does. In some cases this "fog" is so unusual it might even look like a ribbon and/or ectoplasm in the picture.
2. Humidity will allow you to pick up a fog or mist when taking photos in conditions where the ground is warmer than the air thus causing fog. This is very common in photos taken in the woods or in cemeteries where there is vegetation that is decaying thus releasing moisture into the air. This fog is so faint that you don't see it with the naked eye, but the camera does.
3. Humidity will either increase or decrease the static electricity in the air thus allowing for more or less dust to occur. A lower

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humidity condition causes more static electricity thus increasing the amount of dust in the air. A higher humidity condition will lower the static electricity thus resulting in less dust in the air. So if taking pictures or video during an investigation and there are "orbs" present, knowing the humidity can help eliminate "dust orbs", from "moisture orbs", from "possible paranormal data" (or what we call light anomalies).

More Activity During Winter Months

There is a theory that activity increases during the winter months of the year. There are several reasons this could be true (or not true). The belief is that the lower the humidity which leads to a higher static electricity causing a condition that allows for more "activity" to happen. However, others believe that it's really not more activity, but rather that during the winter months we are home more thus we notice the "activity" more. We are not sure if either of these are true, but this is one reason why we track the humidity for each case to see if we can make a determination.

Humidity Changes Could Mean Activity

There is a theory that a dramatic drop or rise in temperature could be a sign that paranormal activity is happening. If that theory is followed then why couldn't other dramatic changes in weather conditions be a similar indicator. So if there is a dramatic change in the humidity maybe there is a paranormal event happening as well. That is were the use of data loggers can assist in tracking this. If you have an EVP or shadow on video and the humidity changed at the same time, then that is two data points and not just one to indicate the possibility of the paranormal.

What We Gather

At TnT Paranormal, for each case, we track the weather elements for the day of, the time frame of, and during the investigation. The types of weather we document and track are: temperature, precipitation, dew point, humidity, visibility, wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, conditions, and any weather events (such as snow, severe weather, etc.). We take baseline readings of ambient temperature and barometric pressure in each room of the location before we start an investigation. We place data loggers throughout the location to gather temperature and humidity data, every two seconds. Then during each rotation during the investigation we will use both ambient and surface thermometers to take readings to see if there are changes in the baselines values during the investigation. All of this information is logged and put into a database.

To learn more about Humidity

<http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/humidity>

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/humidity.aspx>

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/dictionary/meteorological-terms/question651.htm>

<http://paranewsinsider.blogspot.com/2009/04/meteorology-in-paranormal.html>

<http://www.wcgaps.com/articles/meteorology-and-solar-astronomy-and-its-relationship-to-the-paranormal/>

<http://www.examiner.com/article/why-paranormal-investigators-should-understand-the-weather>

<http://www.berkshireparanormal.com/moonphase.html>

Paranormal Technology: Understanding the Science of Ghost Hunting by David M. Rountree, pages 36-38.

