

# SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CoCoRAHS NEWSLETTER



**WINTER 2010**

**“BECAUSE EVERY DROP  
COUNTS”**

# **WELCOME!!!**

This is the third newsletter for CoCoRaHS observers in southern New England (Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island). As of January, we have 169 observers in southern New England:

- 54 observers in Connecticut
- 73 observers in Massachusetts
- 42 observers in Rhode Island

Many observers have been reporting daily, even when no precipitation fell. Keep it up! ***Even Trace amounts and “zeroes” are important to CoCoRaHS!***

Recently, we have noticed some observers have been incorrectly reporting daily precipitation when snow has fallen (reporting 0.00). If you cannot melt the snow that has fallen in your gauge, don't worry – simply report “NA” for your daily precipitation. Also make sure your entries for snow depth and snow water content are in the correct columns!

## **HELP SPREAD THE WORD!!!**

CoCoRaHS has expanded to every state in the country! Southern New England is well represented too. However, there are still some counties in southern New England that need more CoCoRaHS observers. They include:

### CONNECTICUT

**Middlesex, Tolland, Windham**

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Berkshire, Dukes (Martha's Vineyard), Franklin, Hampshire, Nantucket, Norfolk, Suffolk, Worcester**

### RHODE ISLAND

**Bristol, Kent, Newport**

# **SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND HONOR ROLL**

From October 1 through December 31, these stations reported every day:

## **CONNECTICUT**

CT-FR-9 Brookfield 3.3 SE

CT-NH-6 Prospect 1.8 NW

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

MA-BA-2 Falmouth 3.1 NNW

MA-BA-3 Falmouth 3.0 E

MA-BR-3 Norton 1.8 NNE

MA-BR-8 Dighton 1.1 WSW

MA-BR-9 Taunton 2.6 NW

MA-ES-1 Salisbury 3.7 NW

MA-ES-4 Groveland 0.5 WSW

MA-NF-1 Norwood 1.3 NW

## **RHODE ISLAND**

RI-PR-7 Cranston 1.9 E

RI-PR-14 Woonsocket 1.3 ESE

RI-PR-15 Manville 0.2 NE

RI-PR-17 Cranston 4.1 E

RI-WS-8 Saunderstown 2.2 NW

RI-WS-9 Charlestown 3.9 NW



# CoCoRAHS IN ACTION:

## SOME RECENT SIGNIFICANT WEATHER REPORTS










Significant weather reports are very important to CoCoRaHS. NWS forecasters are automatically alerted once you send a report. In the winter, this could be for thunder and lightning, heavy snowfall rates, or anything else you feel is significant. Don't be afraid to send in a Significant Weather Report anytime during the day! They really do help NWS forecasters!!!

Here are some recent Significant Weather Reports:

### Rhode Island:

Date ^	Time	Station Number	Station Name	Duration Minutes	New Precip .in	Total Precip	New Snow Depth	Total Snow Depth	Flooding	State	County	View
12/20/2009	2:00 AM	RI-PR-14	Woonsocket 1.3 ESE	120	0.19	0.32	3.6	5.0		RI	Providence	
12/19/2009	11:35 PM	RI-NW-5	Little Compton 1.7 NW	155	NA	NA	5.0	5.0		RI	Newport	

### Massachusetts:

Date ^	Time	Station Number	Station Name	Duration Minutes	New Precip .in	Total Precip	New Snow Depth	Total Snow Depth	Flooding	State	County	View
1/3/2010	1:00 PM	MA-ES-2	Beverly 2.8 NW	360	NA	NA	2.8	NA		MA	Essex	
1/3/2010	1:30 PM	MA-NF-1	Norwood 1.3 NW	2880	0.38	NA	8.8	NA		MA	Norfolk	
1/2/2010	8:00 AM	MA-NF-1	Norwood 1.3 NW	1440	0.07	NA	1.8	3.0		MA	Norfolk	
1/2/2010	1:00 PM	MA-NF-1	Norwood 1.3 NW	1440	NA	NA	3.2	NA		MA	Norfolk	
1/2/2010	6:30 PM	MA-NF-1	Norwood 1.3 NW	1440	NA	NA	3.9	NA	No	MA	Norfolk	
12/31/2009	3:40 PM	MA-ES-2	Beverly 2.8 NW	0	NA	NA	2.3	2.3		MA	Essex	
12/20/2009	11:00 AM	MA-ES-2	Beverly 2.8 NW	240	NA	NA	5.5	11.5		MA	Essex	
12/20/2009	2:45 PM	MA-NF-1	Norwood 1.3 NW	1440	NA	NA	14.0	NA		MA	Norfolk	
12/3/2009	8:44 AM	MA-BA-3	Falmouth 3.0 E	0	NA	NA	NA	NA		MA	Barnstable	

## WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

Don't forget to protect your rain gauge during the winter! ***Remove the inner measuring tube and funnel from the gauge!*** This will prevent snow from clogging the funnel, and will prevent the inner tube from cracking during cold weather.



## SNOW MEASURING 101

There are four measurements for CoCoRaHS:

- New snowfall
- Liquid water equivalent of new snowfall
- Total snow depth (new snow and old snow/ice)
- Snow water equivalent of total snow on the ground

Here is a brief description of each. For more detailed information, check the Training Slide Shows link on the main CoCoRaHS web page.

### ***New Snowfall:***

Measure new snowfall as soon as possible after it ends, before settling and melting occur. This often will not be at your regular observation time.

### ***Liquid Water Equivalent of New Snowfall:***

Use your snow board or other hard surface

Take a core after you have measured snow depth, but before you have cleared the board or surface of snow

For example, if you determined the total depth of the new snow is 4 inches, then take your core sample from an area where the depth of new snow is 4 inches



Once you have the core sample, melt the snow and measure the amount of water.

### ***Total Snow Depth:***

Snow is rarely uniform in coverage, so take several measurements and average them to obtain your total depth of snow

Slide the snow stick through all layers of snow (new and old)

Read the value on the snow stick and record to the nearest ½ inch

Don't measure "artificial accumulations" such as plowed piles, large drifts, or shoveled snow

### ***Snow Water Equivalent of Total Snow on the Ground:***

Take a core sample from the snow



Melt the core sample

Measure the amount of water in the sample

### ***What about Freezing Rain?***

Freezing rain is rain that falls in liquid form but freezes on contact with a surface.

Do not report freezing rain as snow. Melt and measure the moisture that has accumulated inside your gauge and report that as your daily precipitation amount.

Report zero for the new snow amount (assuming that no sleet or snow fell)

Enter the total depth of freezing rain (icing) remaining on the ground at the time of observation and enter that in the "Total Snow on Ground" column. Make a note in your comments section so we know it is freezing rain.

***STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Email your State Coordinator!!!***

**Connecticut: Alan Dunham (Alan.Dunham@noaa.gov)**

**Massachusetts: Joe DelliCarpini (Joseph.Dellicarpini@noaa.gov)**

**Rhode Island: Bill Simpson (William.Simpson@noaa.gov)**

## **NEXT NEWSLETTER**

Look for the next Southern New England CoCoRaHS Newsletter in the spring.