

“My rain gauge overflowed! What should I report?”

It's been raining all night, and in the morning you come out and find that inner tube is full and the outer tube is full and overflowing. Now what?

Most CoCoRaHS observers will never have to deal with this situation, but if you live in an area prone to very heavy rain it's a definite possibility. Most likely if you receive that much rain in a 24-hour period or less there will be more important things to worry about, like flooding and keeping your home dry.

The best way to prevent your gauge from overflowing is to make periodic measurements during the storm if you are able to. Empty your rain gauge at these times and write down the amount. Total up these amounts and report this as your precipitation at the next observation. If you are able to submit a **Significant Weather Report** for these intermediate amounts if you have the time and means. It will help keep the National Weather Service informed about what is happening.

Sometimes, however, lightning or something else may prevent you from getting out to your gauge and it fills up and overflows. We don't want you to run out in the middle of a thunderstorm to take a measurement. The CoCoRaHS 4-inch rain gauge hold approximately a total of 11 inches of water. It will be a little more if the tube and/or funnel are not in place. How should you report this?

- 1) Once the gauge overflows you no longer have a measurement, but an estimate. Enter 11.00 inches as your precipitation amount.
- 2) In the comments include a statement about your gauge overflowing and any other information that you feel might help determine how much rain fell. *Our quality control procedures will set any observation of 11.00 or 12.00 with no observation comments to NA until a coordinator can follow up with the observer.* Also, when the gauge is nearly full, or full and overflowing, we encourage you to take a photograph of your full gauge.

Precipitation Report Form Submit Data Reset

Station Number : LA-BY-1

Station Name : Bayou Bay 1.0 N

* Denotes Required Field

7/15/2016 *Observation Date

7:00 AM *Observation Time

11.00 in. *Rain and Melted Snow to the nearest hundredth inch that has fallen in the gauge during the past 24 hours, or T for trace, or NA for unknown.

Observation Notes: (This will be available to the public)

Rain gauge overflowed sometime during the night - continuous heavy thunderstorms. More than 11 inches of rain fell. Still raining lightly at ob time. So far we are staying dry.

New Snowfall