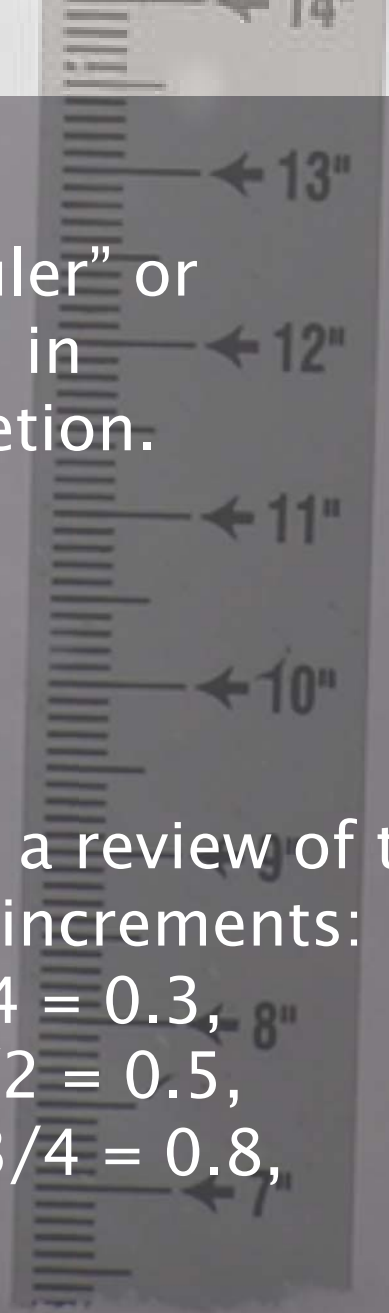
Ice Accretion

Ice Accretion occurs when rain or drizzle falls with surface temperatures at or below freezing.

This is commonly called
“freezing rain” or “freezing drizzle”

The best way to measure Ice Accretion is to break off a very small branch or twig from a tree. Use a ruler to measure the thickness of ice in tenths of an inch. You can also measure Ice Accretion on a flat surface. If there is only a small amount of Ice Accretion which is less than a tenth of an inch report it as Trace (T). If there is no Ice Accretion report it as zero (0.0").

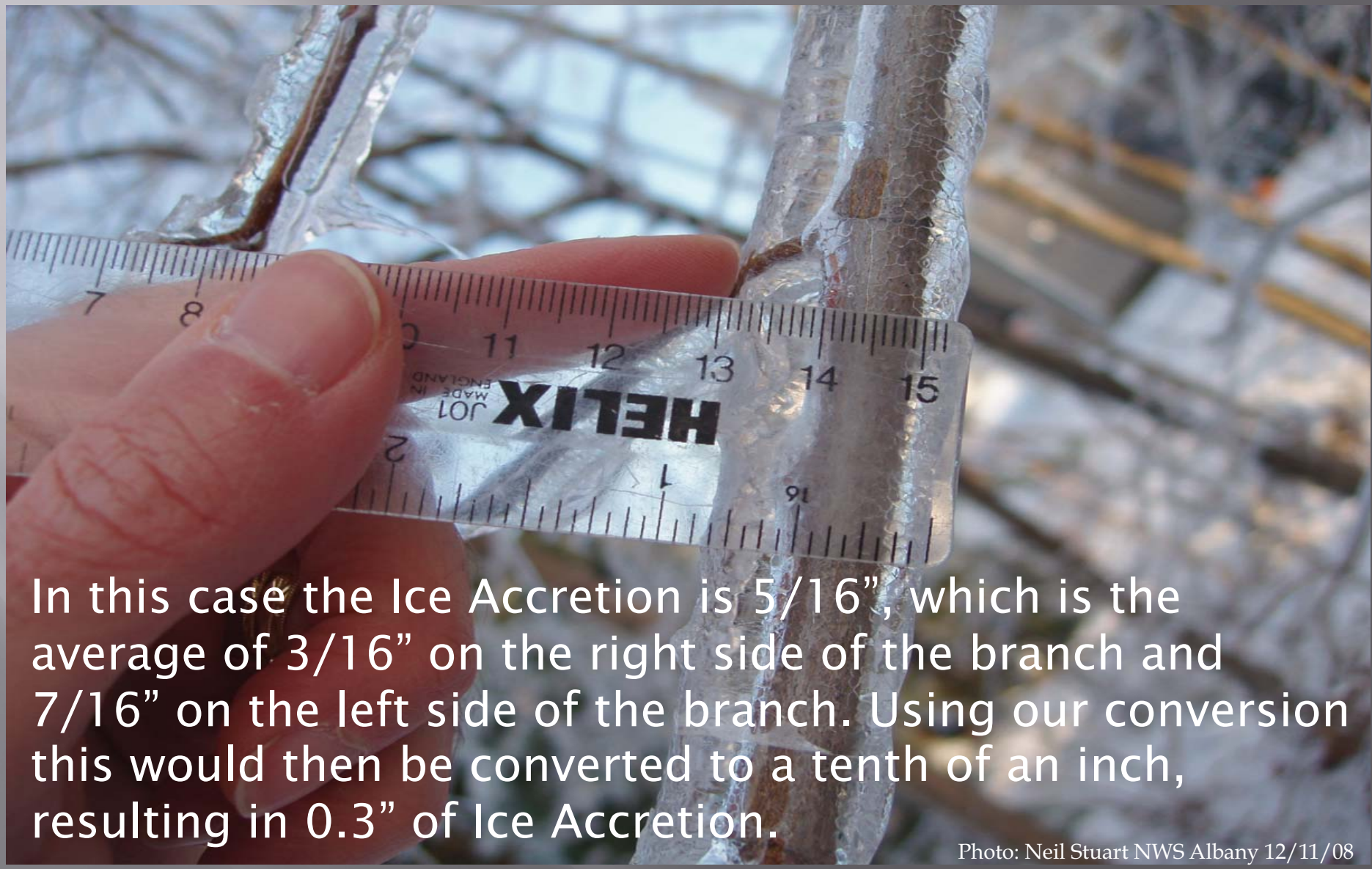
Accumulation is also called ***"glaze"***



It is best to use a “CoCoRaHS Snow Ruler” or an engineering ruler that is graduated in tenths of an inch to measure Ice Accretion.

If you are using a regular ruler here is a review of the conversions to the nearest tenth-inch increments:
1/16 = 0.1, 1/8 = 0.1, 3/16 = 0.2, 1/4 = 0.3,
5/16 = 0.3, 3/8 = 0.4, 7/16 = 0.4, 1/2 = 0.5,
9/16 = 0.6, 5/8 = 0.6, 11/16 = 0.7, 3/4 = 0.8,
13/16 = 0.8, 7/8 = 0.9, 15/16 = 0.9

Ice Accretion Examples



In this case the Ice Accretion is 5/16", which is the average of 3/16" on the right side of the branch and 7/16" on the left side of the branch. Using our conversion this would then be converted to a tenth of an inch, resulting in 0.3" of Ice Accretion.

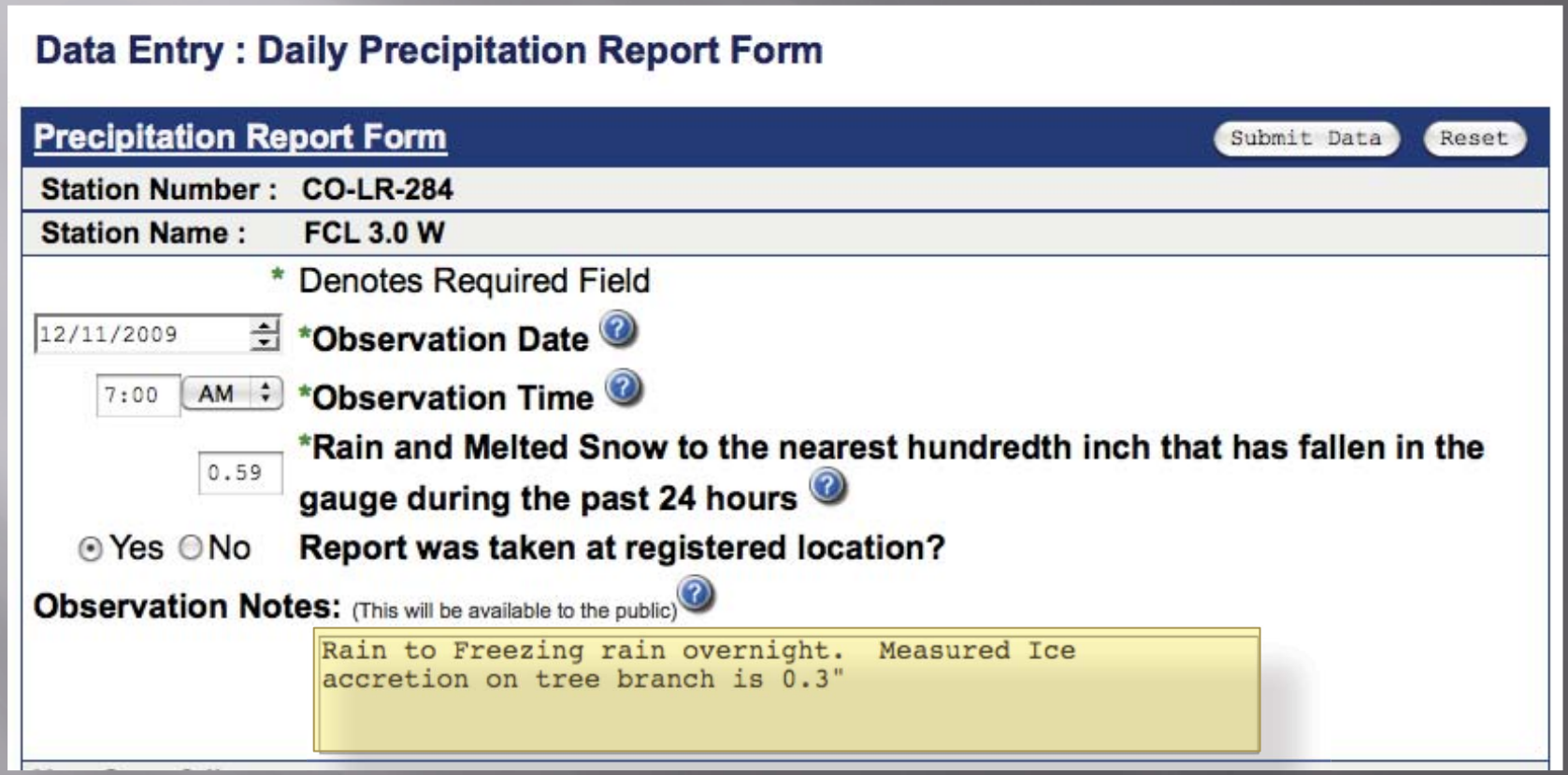
Photo: Neil Stuart NWS Albany 12/11/08

Ice Accretion Examples

In this case the Ice Accretion measured from the top of the metal post is 0.5".

Photo: Neil Stuart NWS Albany 1/15/07

Reporting Ice Accretion



On your CoCoRaHS "*Daily Precipitation Form*" you can list the amount of Ice Accretion (measured to the tenth of an inch) in the "*Observation Notes*" box.