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Southeast Louisiana CoCoRaHS Newsletter October 2010

Oil Spill Setback

No, I did not fall off the face of the earth. On April 20th, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded off the Louisiana coast and set the wheels in motion for the largest emergency response in U.S. history. The National Weather Service office in Slidell became activated as the federal agency for weather decision support services. I was appointed one of the event coordinators, which meant many consecutive days of very long hours either providing frequent forecasts for the spill response, or being deployed to the Incident Command Center in Houma, LA. This became my exclusive life for the past 5 months, and everything else, CoCoRaHS included, was put on hold. The well has since been capped and the federal presence is slowly receding. I have been allowed to return to a more normal daily routine recently. The NWS is still engaged on a daily basis by providing web graphics and specialized weather forecasts as the response transitions to a restoration effort. Fortunately, the local weather has turned autumn-like beautiful and dry rather early this year, and this is allowing me to catch up on lost time. I will try to summarize the past five months of CoCoRaHS activities and get everyone up-to-date.

Current Weather Trends

After a rather wet August in southeast Louisiana, partly due to Tropical Depression Five, the area experienced a very dry September. The New Orleans metro area recorded only 0.33 inches for September, making it the 4th driest September in the long period of record dating back to 1871. At the New Orleans Armstrong International Airport, this measurement sets the 2nd driest September dating back to 1946. October is typically the driest month, climatologically speaking, and so far, no rain days have been noted as of this writing.

The El Nino conditions of early this year have swung completely over to a rather strong La Nina in recent months. This usually means drier than normal conditions for the Deep South. Some early signs of drought are already noted across the area. The latest National Drought Monitor has classified our area as “D0 -Abnormally Dry”, with “D1-Moderate Drought” lurking at our borders. So rain measurements may be rare in the coming days and weeks. Zero readings are just as important to assist the NWS and State Climatologists assess the degree of drought conditions. Your help with the zero reports are greatly appreciated.

Monthly Statistics

May

Wettest Month: 10.83 inches **Westwego 1.8 NE (LA-OR-3)** on 14 reports (statewide and local)

Wettest Day: 4.60 inches **LSU (LA-EB-33)** on 5/16/2010 (statewide and local)

Number of Rain Days: 22 days; wettest day: 1.52” average on 5/16/2010

Hail reported at **Zachary 5.5 ESE (LA-EB-6)** on 5/18/2010 3:04 pm – ¼” Pea average with some marble

Reporting Statistics: 98 stations filed 2174 reports over 31 days; daily average 70.1 reports.

Busiest Reporting Day: 85 reports on the 17th.

June

Wettest Month: 13.23 inches **Gray 0.5 ENE (LA-TR-5)** on 27 reports (statewide and local)

Wettest Day: 4.11 inches **Inniswold 2.8 S (LA-EB-42)** on 6/5/2010 (statewide and local)

Number of Rain Days: 30 days; wettest day: 0.90" average on 6/5/2010

No hail reported in southeast Louisiana.

Reporting Statistics: 94 stations filed 2041 reports over 30 days; daily average 68.0 reports.

Busiest Reporting Day: 74 reports on the 6th and 10th.

July

Wettest Month: 18.91 inches **New Iberia 3.1 NE (LA-IB-2)** on 19 reports (statewide)

13.37 inches **Franklinton 0.4 ENE (LA-WS-2)** on 28 reports (local)

Wettest Day: 4.21 inches **Franklinton 0.4 ENE (LA-WS-2)** on 7/01/2010 (statewide and local)

Number of Rain Days: 26 days; wettest day: 0.54" average on 7/01/2010

No hail reported in southeast Louisiana.

Reporting Statistics: 93 stations filed 2184 reports over 31 days; daily average 70.5 reports.

Busiest Reporting Day: 76 reports on the 28th.

August

Wettest Month: 21.70 inches **Tickfaw 2.0 SSW (LA-TG-6)** on 17 reports (statewide and local)

Wettest Day: 7.00 inches **Tickfaw 2.0 SSW (LA-TG-6)** on 5/16/2010 (statewide and local)

Number of Rain Days: 28 days; wettest day: 0.96" average on 8/06/2010

No hail reported in southeast Louisiana.

Reporting Statistics: 95 stations filed 2259 reports over 31 days; daily average 72.9 reports.

Busiest Reporting Day: 83 reports on the 23rd.

September

Wettest Month: 8.05 inches **Slidell 0.8 E (LA-ST-6)** on perfect 30 reports (statewide and local)

Driest Month: 0.03 inches **Amite City 4.1 E (LA-TG-3)** on perfect 30 reports (statewide and local)

**Many reporting locations compiled 1.00 inches or less for the month.

Wettest Day: 2.94 inches **Lacombe 1.4 N (LA-ST-8)** on 9/26/2010 (statewide and local)

Number of Rain Days: 20 days; wettest day: 0.36" average on 9/26/2010

No hail reported in southeast Louisiana.

Reporting Statistics: 93 stations filed 2083 reports over 30 days; daily average 69.4 reports.

Busiest Reporting Day: 75 reports on the 1st.

State of the Network

The latest active roster in Louisiana indicates 152 members taking observations either all the time or part time. In Southeast Louisiana, I am indicating 68 active members or about 45 percent of the entire state participation. Here is the parish breakdown of active participant numbers in Southeast Louisiana:

Ascension	7	Orleans	1	St. Tammany	7
Assumption	2	Plaquemines	0	Tangipahoa	5
East Baton Rouge	22	Pointe Coupee	1	Terrebonne	1
East Feliciana	1	St. Bernard	0	Washington	2
Iberville	2	St. Charles	2	West Baton Rouge	0
Jefferson	4	St. Helena	0	West Feliciana	0
Lafourche	1	St. James	2	SE Louisiana	68
Livingston	6	St. John the Baptist	2	LOUISIANA	152

Keep those rainfall and hail reports coming. See you next month.