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Southern Mississippi CoCoRaHS Newsletter

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Oil Spill Setback

No, I did not fall off the face of the earth. On April 20th, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded well south of the Mississippi 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. 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 southern Mississippi, partly due to Tropical Depression Five, the area experienced a very dry September. As an example, 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 parts of southern and coastal MS as either "D0 -Abnormally Dry" or "D1-Moderate Drought". 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: 14.81 inches **Ocean Springs 1.7W (MS-JC-15)** on 13 reports (statewide and local)

Wettest Day: 6.78 inches **Batesville 2.2 SSE (Panola Co.)** on 5/02/2010 (statewide)

4.85 inches **Waveland 1.1 NW (MS-HC-11)** on 5/03/2010 (local)

Number of Rain Days: 24 days; wettest day: 1.51" average on 5/03/2010 with 127 reports

No hail reported in south Mississippi.

Reporting Statistics: 155 stations filed 3860 reports over 31 days; daily average 124.5 reports.

Busiest Reporting Day: 134 reports on the 21st.

June

Wettest Month: 14.60 inches **Waveland 1.1 NW (MS-HC-11)** on 26 reports (statewide and local)
Wettest Day: 5.96 inches **Pass Christian 8.9 NNW (MS-HR-15)** on 6/29/2010 (statewide and local)
Number of Rain Days: 29 days; wettest day: 0.53" average on 6/29/2010 and 6/30/2010 on 124 reports.
Unknown sized hail reported at **Long Beach 0.8 SSE (MS-HR-12)** on 6/21/2010.
Reporting Statistics: 149 stations filed 3568 reports over 30 days; daily average 118.9 reports.
Busiest Reporting Day: 128 reports on the 2nd.

July

Wettest Month: 13.73 inches **Diamondhead 0.6 WNW (MS-HC-2)** on 23 reports (statewide)
Wettest Day: 7.36 inches **Biloxi 1.5 NW (MS-HR-8)** on 7/01/2010 (statewide and local)
Number of Rain Days: 28 days; wettest day: 0.92" average on 7/01/2010 on 129 reports.
No hail reported in southern Mississippi.
Reporting Statistics: 148 stations filed 3653 reports over 31 days; daily average 117.8 reports.
Busiest Reporting Day: 129 reports on the 1st.

August

Wettest Month: 18.89 inches **Pass Christian 3.5 NE (MS-HR-10)** on 29 reports (statewide and local)
Wettest Day: 10.47 inches **Natchez 8.8 S (Adams Co.)** on 8/19/2010 (statewide)
3.99 inches **Ocean Springs 3.6 ESE (MS-JC-12)** on 8/29/2010 (local)
Number of Rain Days: 28 days; wettest day: 0.74" average on 8/29/2010 on 117 reports.
No hail reported in southern Mississippi.
Reporting Statistics: 150 stations filed 3617 reports over 31 days; daily average 116.7 reports.
Busiest Reporting Day: 126 reports on the 18th and 19th.

September

Wettest Month: 8.19 inches **Ocean Springs 1.7 W (MS-JC-15)** on 13 reports (statewide and local)
Wettest Day: 2.80 inches **Gulfport 6.2 SSE (MS-HR-21)** on 9/27/2010 (statewide and local)
Number of Rain Days: 15 days; wettest day: 0.41" average on 9/27/2010
No hail reported in southern Mississippi.
Reporting Statistics: 146 stations filed 3422 reports over 30 days; daily average 114.1 reports.
Busiest Reporting Day: 121 reports on the 1st.

State of the Network

The latest active roster in Mississippi indicates 267 members taking observations either all the time or part time. In Southern Mississippi, I am indicating 57 active members or about 21 percent of the entire state participation. Here is the county breakdown of active participant numbers in Southern Mississippi:

Amite	3
Hancock	9
Harrison	19
Jackson	17
Pearl River	8
Pike	1
Walthall	0
Wilkinson	0

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