

HELPFUL REPORTING HINTS FOR COCORAH'S OBSERVERS

There are many ways you can provide information about your local weather and environment. Each report type tells a slightly different story about what is happening in your local area. All are important for meteorologists and scientists who monitor specific weather events and how conditions are changing over time. We encourage you to give them a try!

SIGNIFICANT WEATHER REAL-TIME

DAILY COMMENTS SHORT-TERM

CONDITION MONITORING LONG-TERM



WHEN TO REPORT

- During rain, hail, or snow events
- Submit reports as conditions change to convey what is happening in real time
- Supplementary, does not replace daily report

- Each morning in your daily precipitation report, under "Observation Notes"

- Weekly, if possible, to document how precipitation received has affected your local environment
- Consistent reporting helps document change over time



WHAT TO REPORT

- Rain, hail, snow, or ice measurements
- When the event occurred and how long it lasted
- Impact observations from flooding, wind damage, etc.

- Brief observations about what happened in the last 24 hrs to give context to your report
- Include high/low temperatures and timing and duration of weather events

- Precipitation amounts for the time period or weather event on which you are reporting
- Specific locations that you regularly observe (ex. lakes, streams, or other local areas)
- Descriptions of how wet or dry periods or seasonal changes have affected your area



WHO USES YOUR REPORT

- Reports go immediately to your National Weather Service Office
- Reports are used to create and verify severe weather statements and warnings

- Organizations and agencies such as the National Weather Service use the reports to verify precipitation data and other weather observations daily

- The following agencies use these reports to monitor on-the-ground wet and dry conditions:
 - National Weather Service Offices
 - State Climate Offices
 - Local drought committees



REPORT EXAMPLE

"Thunderstorms started at 4:26am, hvy winds and driving rain. Standing water in yards. Rain ended 6:30am with fast-moving clouds and overcast skies." [4/13/20, SC-RC-88]

"Steady rain yesterday, ended overnight. Accumulation at 4:00pm was 0.92 inches." [1.03", 10/14/19, NC-GS-8]

"All grass in the fields is dead, dirt areas covered with a few inches of fine powder. Trees are dying, most dropped their leaves a few weeks early. Since August 23, only .66" of rain." [11/8/16, NC-PK-1]

