

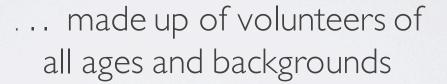
# Training Slide Show

"Because every drop counts!"

## What is CoCoRaHS?

CoCoRaHS is a national grassroots, non-profit, community-based, high-density precipitation network...













... who take daily measurements of <u>precipitation</u> right in their own backyards



Once trained, our volunteer observers collect data using low-cost measurement tools . . .



4-inch diameter high capacity rain gauges



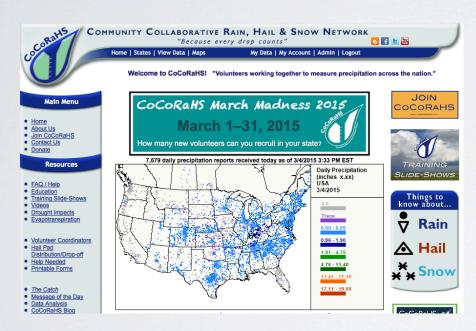
Aluminum foil-wrapped Styrofoam hail pads



Training is important to assure accurate, high quality data

# www.cocorahs.org

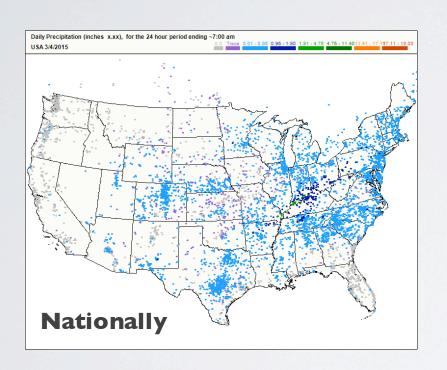
Volunteers report their daily observations on our interactive Web site

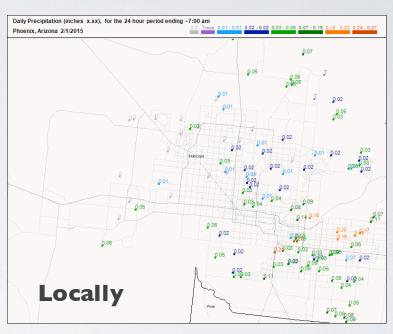




# Immediately viewable

Volunteers observations are viewable in both map and table form within a few minutes





<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	Station Number	Station Name			Total Snow in.	<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>	View
3/4/2015	7:00 AM	AZ-MH-3	Golden Valley 2.6 WNW	0.31	NA	NA	ΑZ	Mohave	۵,
3/4/2015	7:00 AM	AZ-PN-27	Apache Junction 3.2 N	0.17	NA	NA	ΑZ	Pinal	۵,
3/4/2015	7:00 AM	AZ-CH-5	San Simon 2.6 S	0.15	NA	NA	ΑZ	Cochise	۵,
3/4/2015	7:00 AM	AZ-YV-54	Sedona 3.4 W	0.11	NA	NA	ΑZ	Yavapai	۵,
3/4/2015	6:00 AM	AZ-CN-20	Williams 3.3 SSE	0.10	8.0	12.3	ΑZ	Coconino	۵,
3/4/2015	7:00 AM	AZ-PM-143	Tucson 11.7 ENE	0.09	NA	NA	ΑZ	Pima	۵,
3/4/2015	7:00 AM	AZ-YV-17	Prescott 2.9 WNW	0.08	Т	4.0	ΑZ	Yavapai	۵,
3/4/2015	8:30 AM	AZ-GL-3	Pine 0.9 SW	0.08	0.0	0.0	ΑZ	Gila	۵,
3/4/2015	6:00 AM	AZ-CH-41	Sierra Vista 9.2 SSE	0.07	NA	NA	ΑZ	Cochise	۵,
3/4/2015	7:00 AM	AZ-GL-1	Payson 1.0 WSW	0.06	0.0	0.0	ΑZ	Gila	۵,
3/4/2015	7:00 AM	AZ-YV-55	Cornville 0.8 SSE	0.05	NA	NA	ΑZ	Yavapai	۵,

# Why CoCoRaHS?

#### Great question!



Precipitation is important and highly variable



Data sources are few and rain gauges are far apart

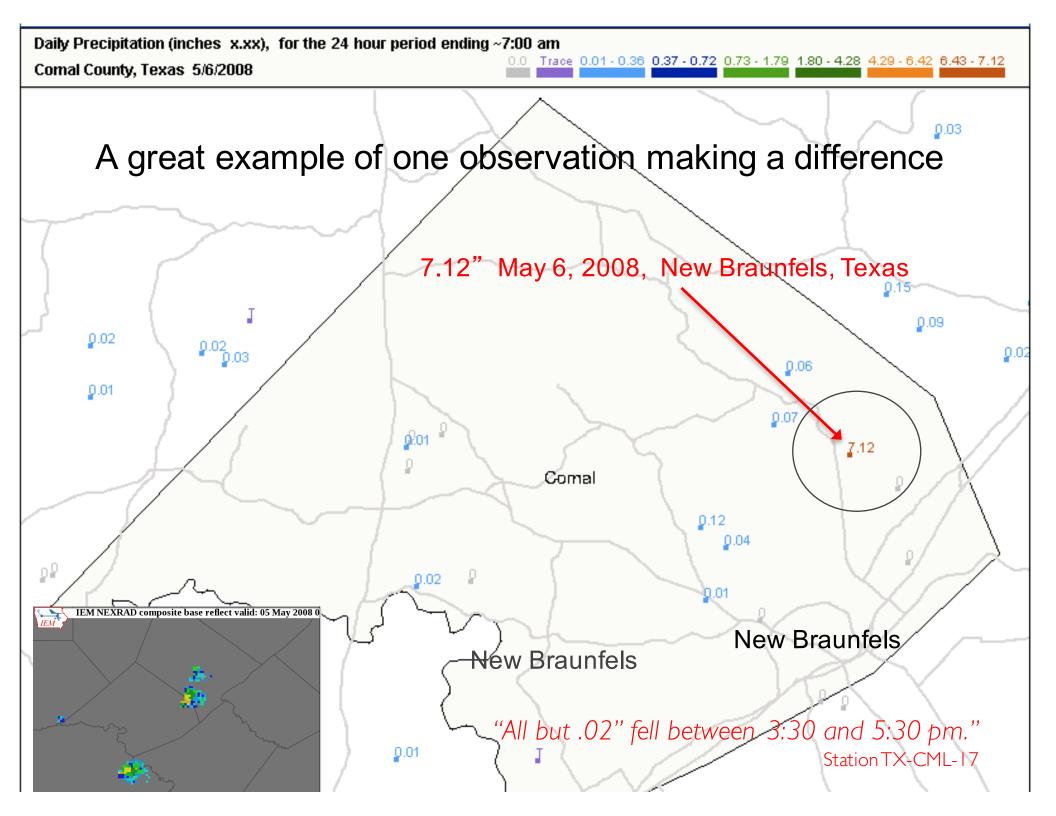


Measurements from many sources are not always accurate (especially snow)

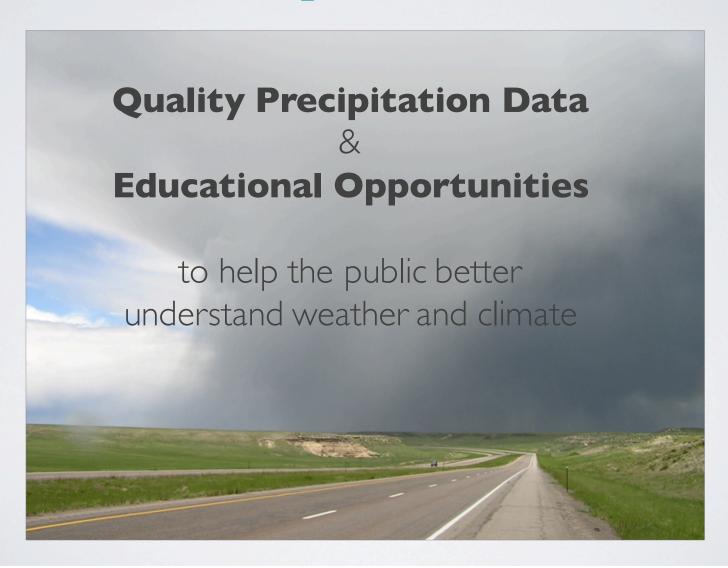
There is almost no quantitative data being collected about hail



Storm reports can save lives



# CoCoRaHS's main focus is to provide:



## **Examples of CoCoRaHS data users**

National Weather Service
Other Meteorologists
Hydrologists
Emergency Managers
City Utilities

-Water supply-Water conservation

Storm water

Insurance adjusters
USDA—Crop production
Engineers
Scientists studying storms
Mosquito control
Farm Service Agency
Ranchers and Farmers
Outdoor & Recreation

Teachers and Students
Geoscience education tool
Taking measurements
Analyzing data
Organizing results
Conducting research
Helping the community



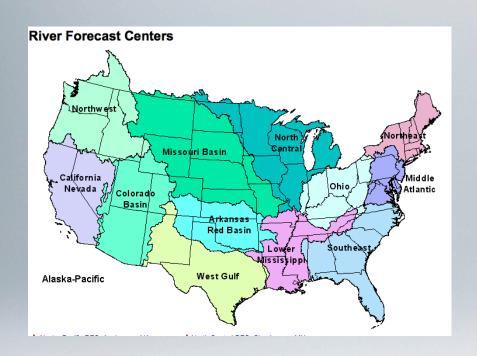








## NOAA's River Forecast Centers





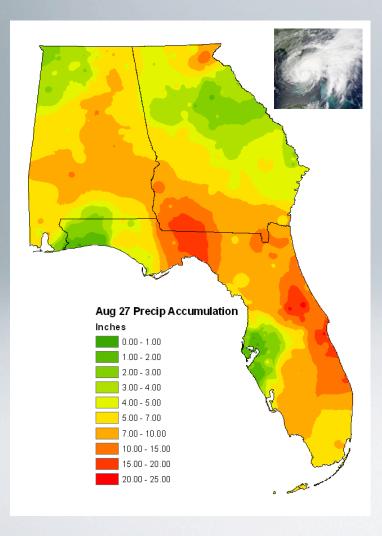
"Your data has filled in the holes in our NWS/USGS gage network.

It also is used to improve the bias used in our Multisensor Precip Estimates.

The more ground truth - the more accurate our river forecasts are."

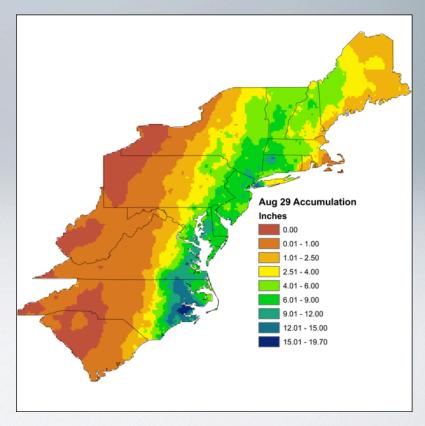
Patricia Wnek – Mid Atlantic River Forecast Center

## NOAA's National Hurricane Center - Tropical system post storm analysis



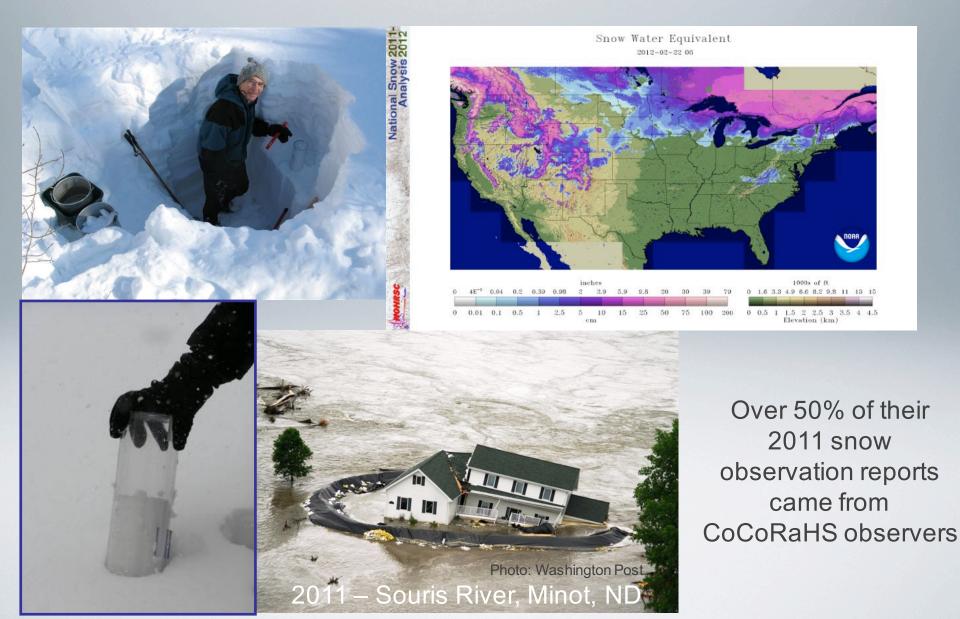
2008 – Tropical Storm Fay

"We use the CoCoRaHS data in our post-storm summary to describe the overall impacts of a tropical cyclone event." Dan Brown - National Hurricane Center



2011 - Hurricane Irene

#### NOHRSC – National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center Snow water equivalent (SWE) for Snowpack monitoring -- getting a heads up on snowmelt



# Section One

Setting up your equipment and measuring precipitation



In this section we will:

- a) Show how/where to place your gauge and hail pad
- b) Explain how to measure rainfall with your gauge
- c) Illustrate how to observe hail
- d) Describe measuring snow depth and water content



# Placement of your gauge

"Location is the key to good data"



# Places not to place your gauge





The #I, all time worst place to put your rain gauge is to leave it in the box!

Using your gauge to hold up your gutter downspout is not a wise choice either!

Avoid placing it under trees or any structure





Although convenient, the deck is still too close to the house

### Also avoid placing your gauge near:



Sprinklers both big and small



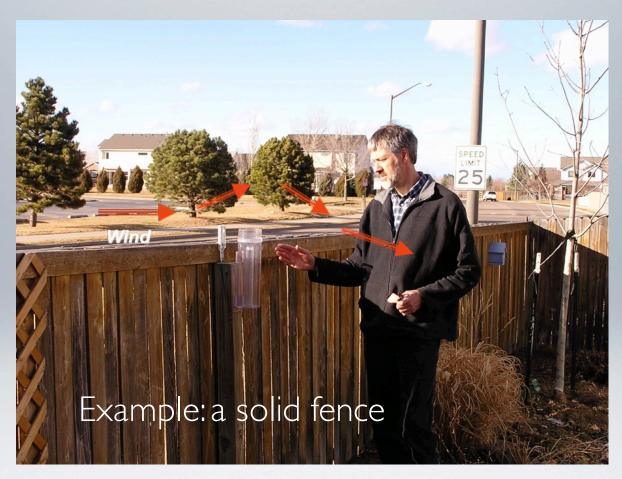
Any steep slopes (a bit exaggerated)



Animals (dogs, birds . . . bears!)



Avoid anything that would artificially increase or decrease your catch gauge



This can cause updrafting during strong winds, which may reduce your gauge catch.

Ideal placements for your gauge



rural

residential





urban

#### Distance from Obstacles

In <u>open areas</u> strive to be <u>twice as far</u> from obstacles as they are high.

In <u>developed areas</u> strive to be <u>as far</u> from obstacles as they are high.

#### Distance between Trees

Ideally, place your gauge equidistant from the nearest trees



#### Height above the ground

In open areas place the gauge top approx. 2 feet off the ground



In <u>developed areas</u> place the gauge top approx. 5 feet off the ground



#### Level and Bevel

Make sure that your gauge is level





Bevel the top of the post to reduce rain splashing into the gauge

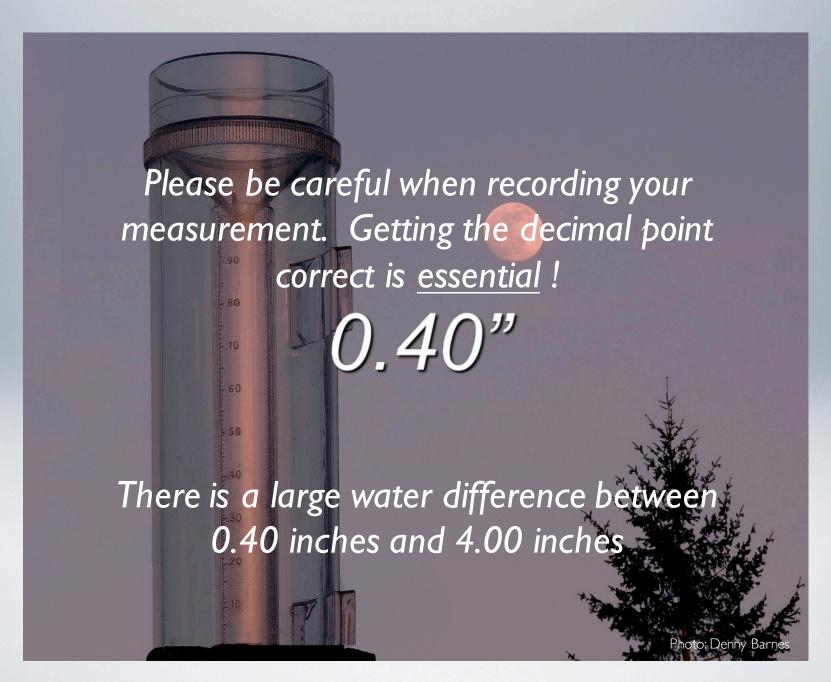
# Measuring Rainfall with your Gauge

"Accuracy and consistency are very important"





### A Word about Decimals



## Please do not round up

It is very important to record as accurately to the <u>nearest hundredth</u> of an inch.

Please do not round up to the nearest tenth!

If you measured 0.98" please record that amount.

Do not record it as 1.00"

#### When should we take our observations?



# Reading your Gauge

Here are the most common situations you will encounter



# YOUR MOST COMMON OBSERVATION WILL BE ...

ZERO 0.00"

It is important to know where it did <u>NOT</u> rain.

Please report zeros!

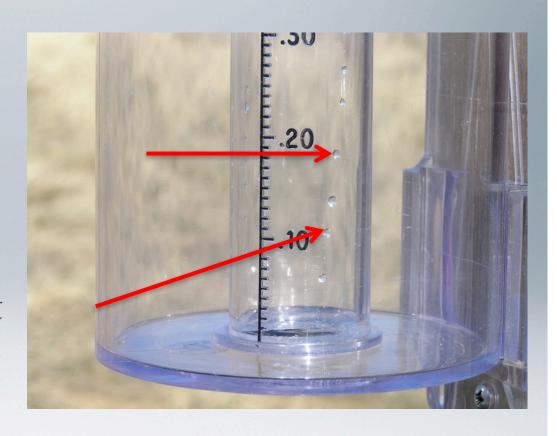


# Texas Drought 2011

Daily Precipitation (inches x.xx), for the 24 hour period ending ~7:00 am 0.0 Trace 0.01 - 0.01 0.01 - 0.02 0.02 - 0.03 0.03 - 0.04 0.04 - 0.05 0.05 - 0.06 Austin/San Antonio/Del Rio Region, Texas 8/6/2011 Tom Green Reagan Upton McCulloch Menard Schleiche Reporting Zeros Mason Crackett Kimble San Antonio Atascosa Victoria Live Oak McMullen La Salle Jim Wells Duval

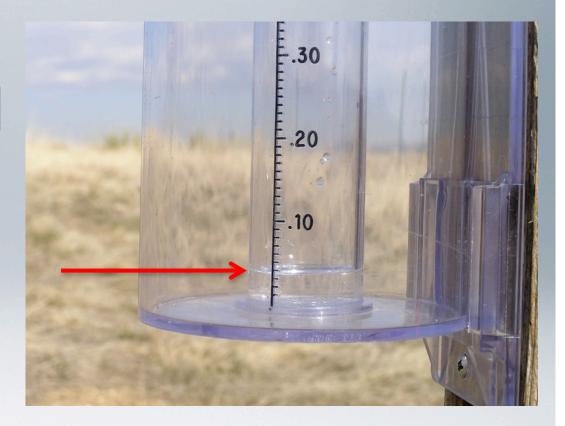
# Trace "T"

"When only a drop or two wet the gauge record "T" for Trace



Between "T" and "one tenth" of an inch

"That's **0.04**" or four hundredths



#### The Meniscus

The surface of the water in the gauge looks curved. How do I know where to read?

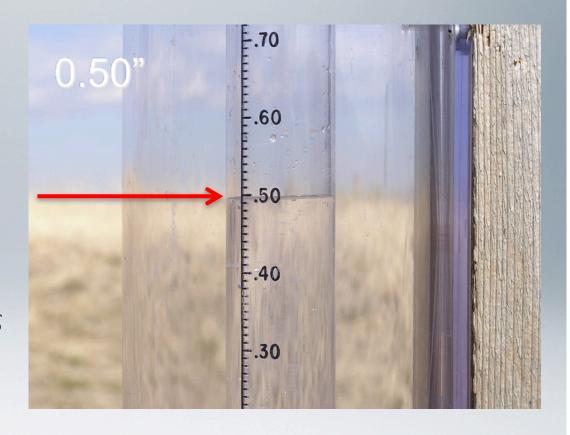
As water fills up the measuring tube, a curved surface is formed called a meniscus. It is formed by the surface tension of a liquid in contact with the sides of the tube.

Always read the bottom of the **meniscus**, when the making your daily rain measurements.



# A nice soaking rain

"This is "one half" inch and is recorded as 0.50"



# A really good rain!

"This is "one inch" and is recorded as 1.00"





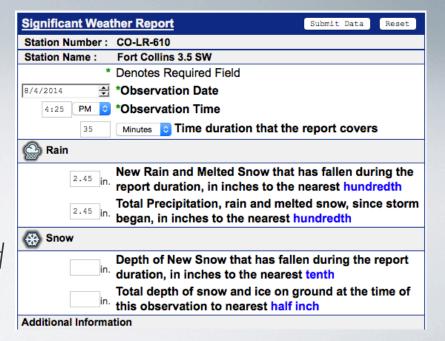
# IF THERE IS VERY HEAVY RAIN OR SNOW FALLING

PLEASE submit a

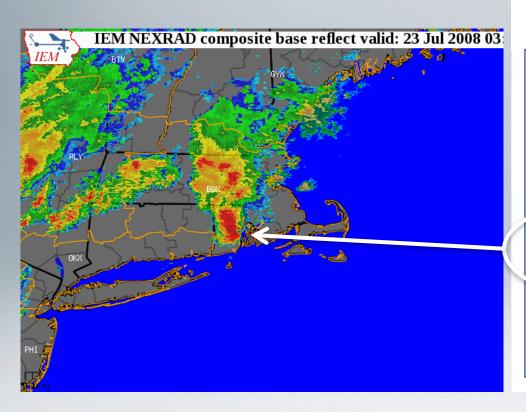
"Significant Weather Report" via the CoCoRaHS website -- ASAP

Your report immediately goes to your National Weather Service Office

Your report provides them with much needed information to issue severe weather statements such as flash flood warnings and these can save lives!



# Significant Weather Reports



### **View Data: View Significant Weather Report**

Significant Weather Report						
Station Number:	RI-WS-1					
Station Name:	Hope Valley 3.7 S					
Date:	7/23/2008 3:15 PM					
Submitted	7/23/2008 3:23 PM					
Notes:						
Taken at Registered Location: True						
Precip Duration Minutes:	15					
New Precip Amount:	1.00					
Total Precip Amount:	NA					
New Snow Depth:	NA					
Total Snow Depth:	NA					
Flooding:	No					

July 23, 2008 – "A CoCoRaHS observer in Hope Valley, RI provided an intense rainfall report which led to the issuance of a timely Flash Flood Warning. Life threatening urban flooding was reported in Warwick and Providence at the start of the evening rush hour, where several cars were stranded in more than 2 feet of water, requiring people to be rescued. Lead time would have been much less without the CoCoRaHS report." - Joe Dellicarpini, NWS Taunton, MA

## Lots of rain!!

When more than an inch of rain falls the precipitation will overflow into the outer cylinder.

The whole gauge has a capacity to hold eleven inches.





# To measure greater than one inch...



Pour out the first inch from the inner tube and write it down.



Pour the remaining water into the funnel and measure the inner tube.



Continue until all of the water has been measured. Make sure you keep track of your measurements along the way.

# Finally add up all of your measurements

1.00 inch

0.97 inches

0.88 inches

+ 0.92 inches

Total = 3.77"



# Observing Hail



If possible submit an

# "On-Line Hail Report"

as soon as possible

(a hail pad is not required to submit a report)



Your report goes right to the National Weather Service.

It provides them with much needed information to issue severe weather statements.



#### Special Weather Statement

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HOUSTON/GALVESTON TX
225 PM CDT SAT OCT 3 2009

TXZ226-235-032015-JACKSON-WHARTON-225 PM CDT SAT OCT 3 2009

... SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT..

AT 222 PM CDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED A STRONG THUNDERSTORM OVER EXTREME NORTHWESTERN JACKSON COUNTY...MOVING EAST SOUTHEAST AT 15 MPH.

HAIL UP TO ONE HALF INCH IN DIAMETER...BRIEF HEAVY DOWNPOURS...ARE POSSIBLE WITH THIS STORM.

# Measuring Snow

"Snow is good"
- Nolan Doesken



# Two ways in which snow is measured

Our observers measure:

- I. Liquid water content of snow
  - from the gauge
  - from a core sample
- 2. Depth of snow
  - 24 hour snowfall accumulation
  - existing snow depths





# YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT SNOW MEASUREMENT BY VIEWING OUR "IN DEPTH" SLIDESHOW ON THE WEB



# Section Two

Reporting Observations

### Precipitation Report Form Submit Data Station Number: CO-LR-610 Station Name : Fort Collins 3.5 SW \* Denotes Required Field 5/17/2014 🖆 \*Observation Date 🎱 7:00 AM + \*Observation Time @ \*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) Quick thunderstorm dumped over a half of inch of rain. Tree branches down do to windy conditions. **New Snowfall** in. Accumulation of new snow in inches to the nearest tenth in. Melted value from core to the nearest hundredth Total Snow and Ice on Ground at Observation Time in. Depth of total snow and ice (new and old) in inches to the nearest half inch in. Melted value from core to the nearest hundredth

My Data Entry: Daily Precipitation Report Form

## www.cocorahs.org

### The CoCoRaHS Web site



COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK

"Because every drop counts"

**□ ■ ■** 

Home | Countries | States | View Data | Maps

My Data | My Account | Admin | Logout

Welcome to CoCoRaHS! "Volunteers working together to measure precipitation across the nations."

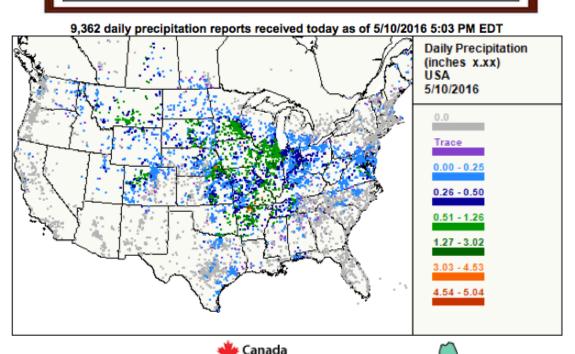
### Main Menu

- Home
- About Us
- Join CoCoRaHS
- Contact Us
- Donate

#### Resources

- FAQ / Help
- Education
- Training Slide-Shows
- Videos
- Drought Impacts
- Evapotranspiration
- Volunteer Coordinators
- Hail Pad
- <u>Distribution/Drop-off</u>
   Help Needed
- Printable Forms
- The Catch
- Message of the Day





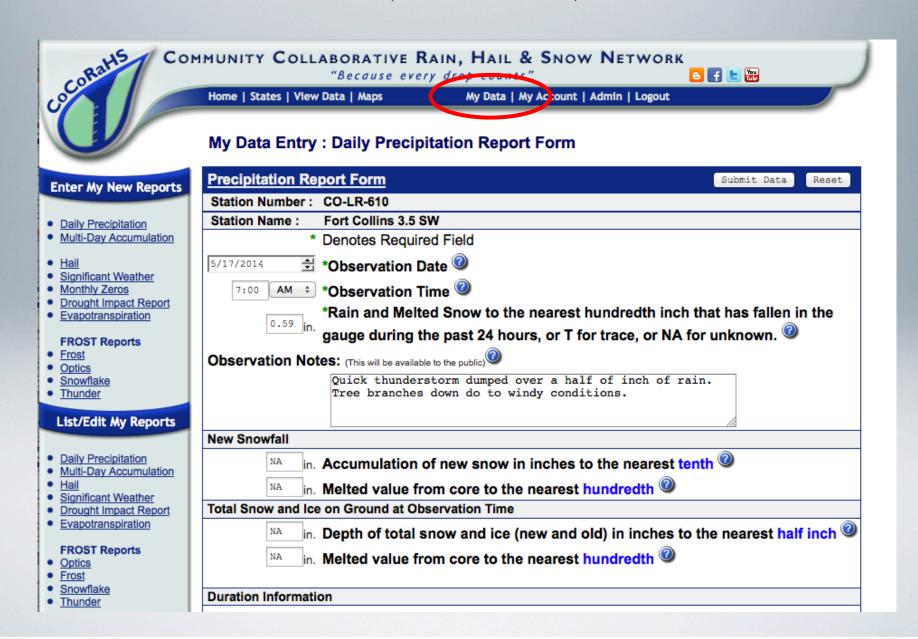




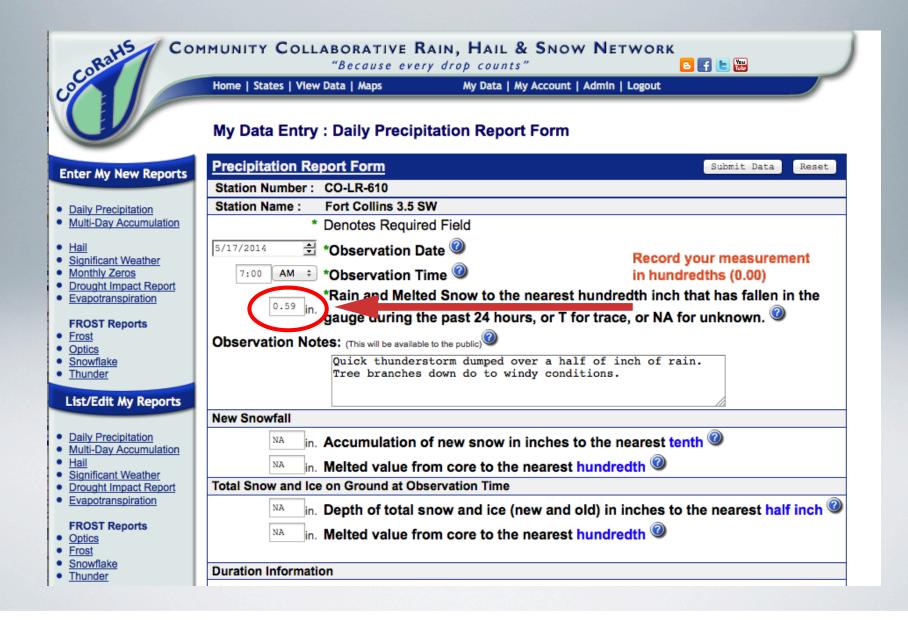


### YOUR DAILY "24 HOUR" OBSERVATION

Click on "My data" from the top menu bar

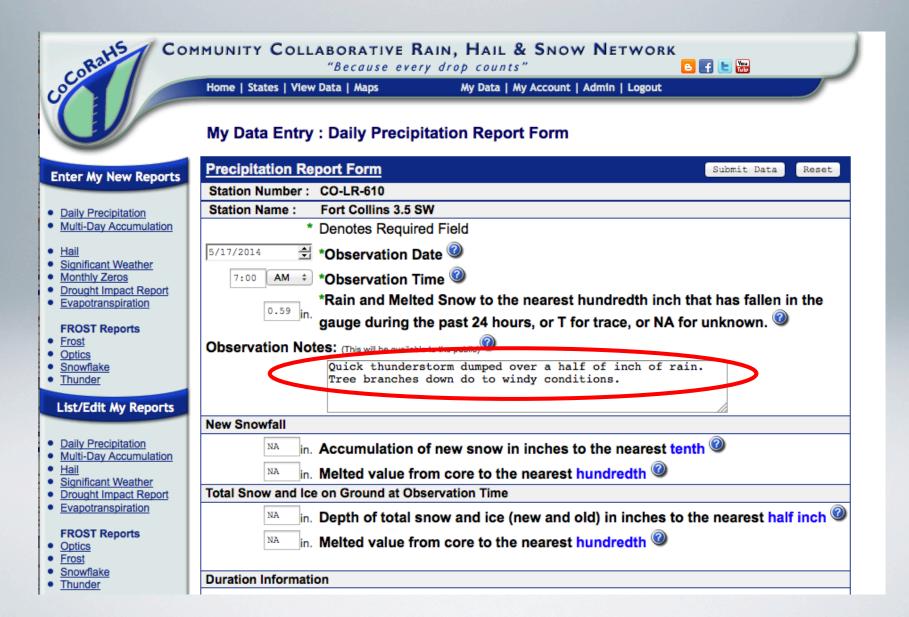


### Enter the total precipitation measured in your gauge. Record your measurement in hundredths (0.00")



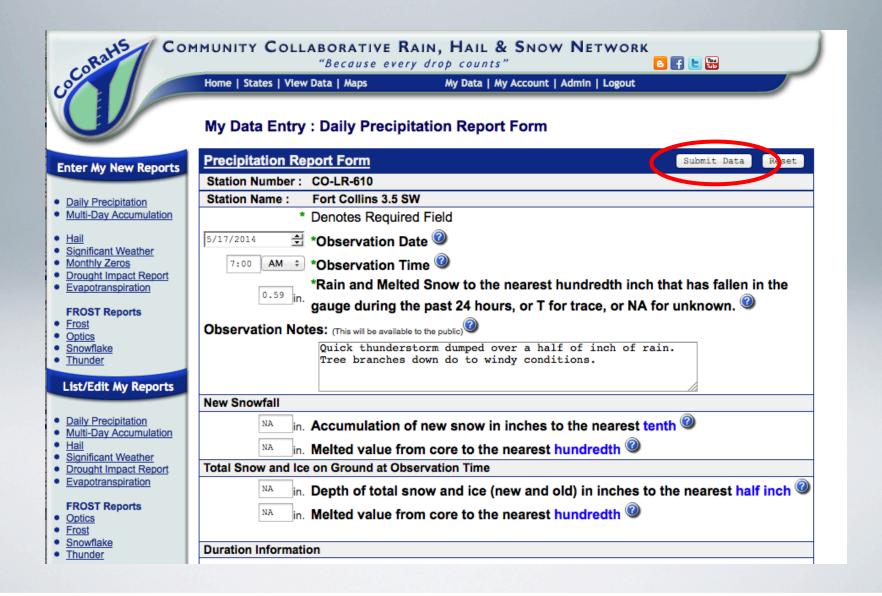
### You can enter comments under "notes"

These are very helpful to augment your observation



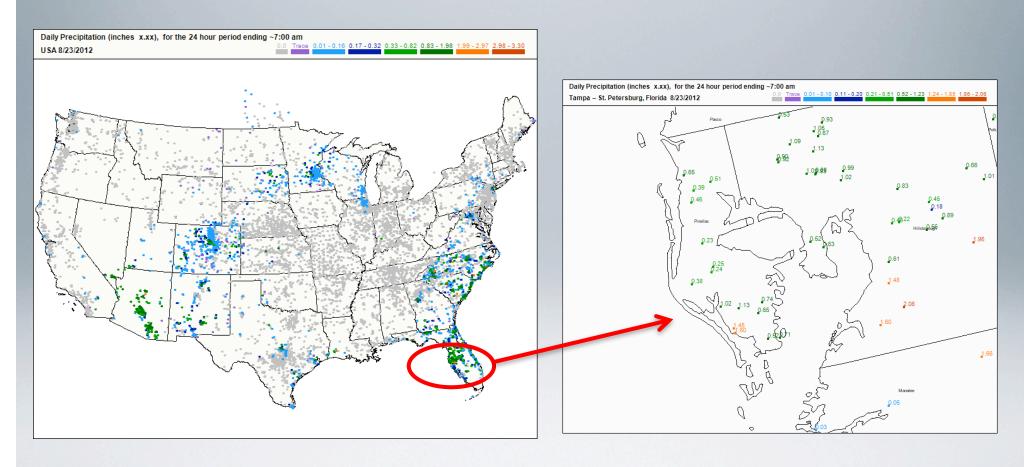
### Submit your report

Click "Submit Data" and your observation is recorded on our site

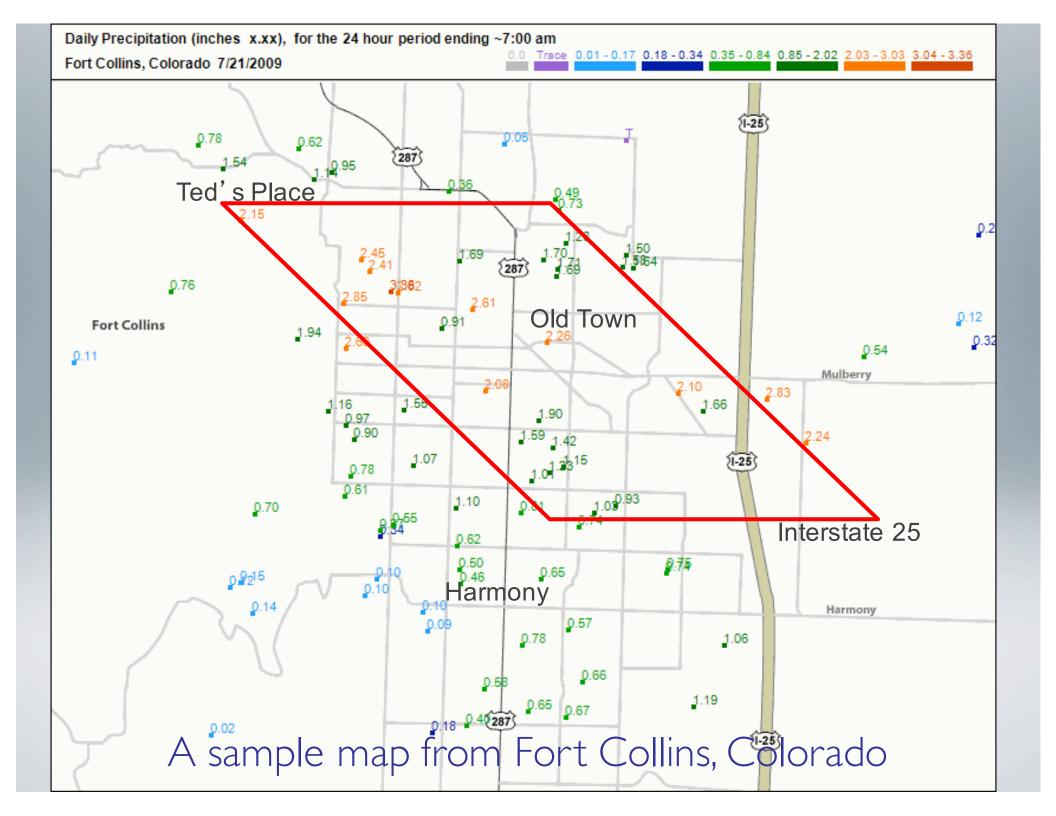


### To see your Observation on our maps

Click on your state from our main page and then click on your county



Observations are available (and sortable) in table form by clicking on "View Data" from the main menu.



### Re-entering an erroneous report



### COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK

"Because every drop counts"

Home | States | View Data | Maps

My Data | My Account | Admin | Logout

### My Data Entry: List My Daily Precipitation Reports US Units +

### **Enter My New Reports**

- Daily Precipitation
- Multi-Day Accumulation
- Hail
- Significant Weather
- Monthly Zeros
- Drought Impact Report
- Evapotranspiration

#### FROST Reports

- Frost
- Optics
- Snowflake
- Thunder

### List/Edit My Reports

- Daily Precipitation

  Multi-Day Accumulation
- Hail
- Significant Weather
- Drought Impact Report
- Evapotranspiration

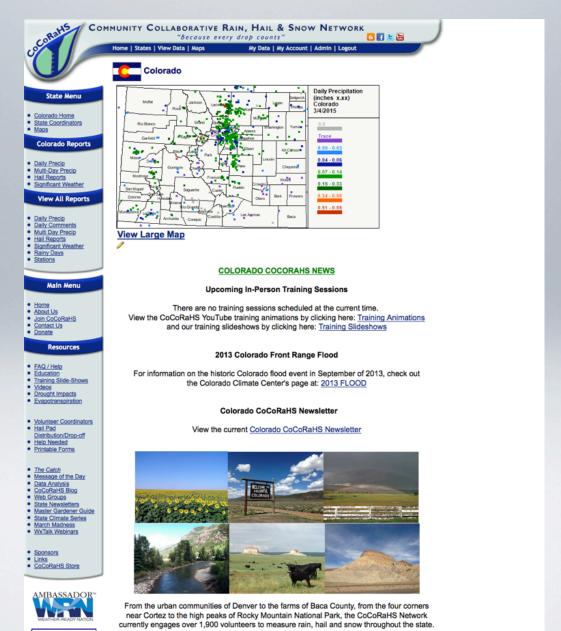
#### **FROST Reports**

- Optics
- Frost
- Snowflake
- Thunder

Showing 1 - 50 of 2079 Records.	<back +="" 1="" next="" page=""></back>
---------------------------------	---

Date <b>▲</b>	Time	<u>Station</u>	Station Name	<u>Total</u> Precip		<u>Total</u> Snow	State	County	Actions
Date 1	11110	<u>Number</u>	<u>Junon Marrio</u>	in.	_	in.	otato	o o u i i i	riotions
5/28/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.11	NA	NA	СО	Larimer	a, /
5/27/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.02	NA	NA	CO	Larimer	△ /
5/26/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.10	NA	NA	CO	Larimer	a /
5/25/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	Т	NA	NA	CO	Larimer	<u></u>
5/24/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.66	NA	NA	CO	Larimer	a, /
5/22/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.36	NA	NA	CO	Larimer	a, /
5/18/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	Т	NA	NA	CO	Larimer	<b>△</b> /
5/17/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.10	NA	NA	CO	Larimer	<u></u>
5/13/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.00	NA	NA	CO	Larimer	a, /
5/12/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.82	NA	NA	CO	Larimer	△ /
5/11/2014	8:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	1.20	1.0	NA	CO	Larimer	<b>△</b> /
5/9/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.17	NA	NA	CO	Larimer	<u>△</u> , /
5/8/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	1.08	NA	NA	СО	Larimer	a, /
5/7/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.03	NA	NA	CO	Larimer	△ /
5/6/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.00	0.0	NA	CO	Larimer	a, /
5/5/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.00	0.0	NA	CO	Larimer	<b>△</b> /
5/4/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.00	0.0	NA	CO	Larimer	a /
5/3/2014	7:00 AM	CO-LR-610	Fort Collins 3.5 SW	0.00	0.0	NA	CO	Larimer	<b>△</b> /
E/2/2014	7.00 AM	CO I P 610	Fort Colline 3 5 QM	0 00	0.0	NΙΛ	<u></u>	Larimar	<u>a</u> //

# For Info on what is happening in your state visit your state page



# Other Important Reports

Hail Report

Significant Weather Report (Rain and Snow)

Monthly Zeros

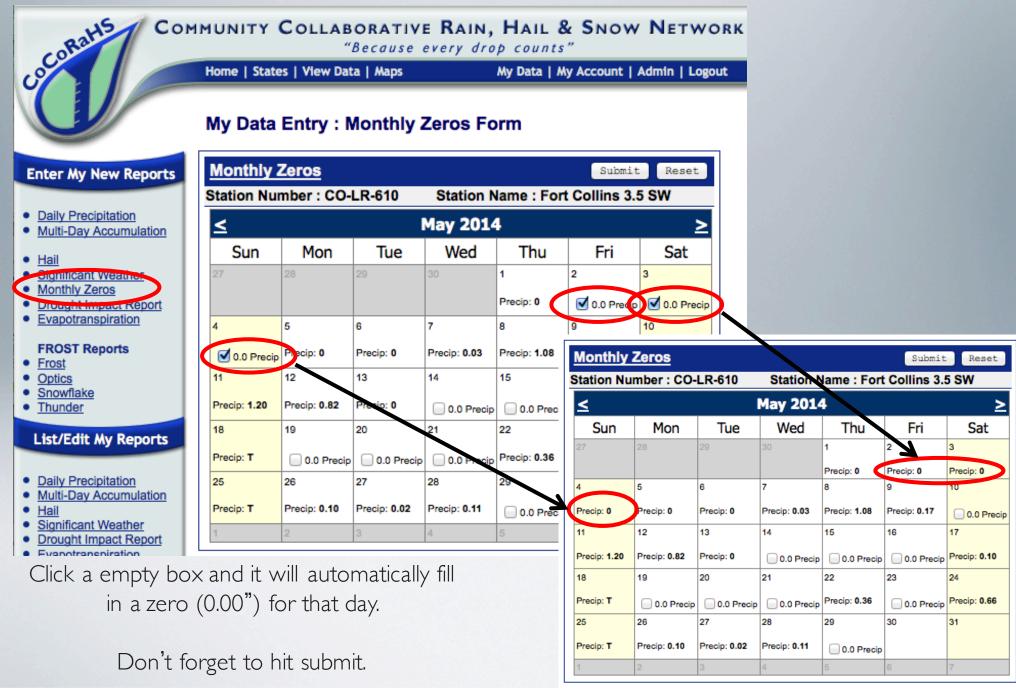
Multi-Day Precipitation Report

Drought Impact Report

# Hail Report

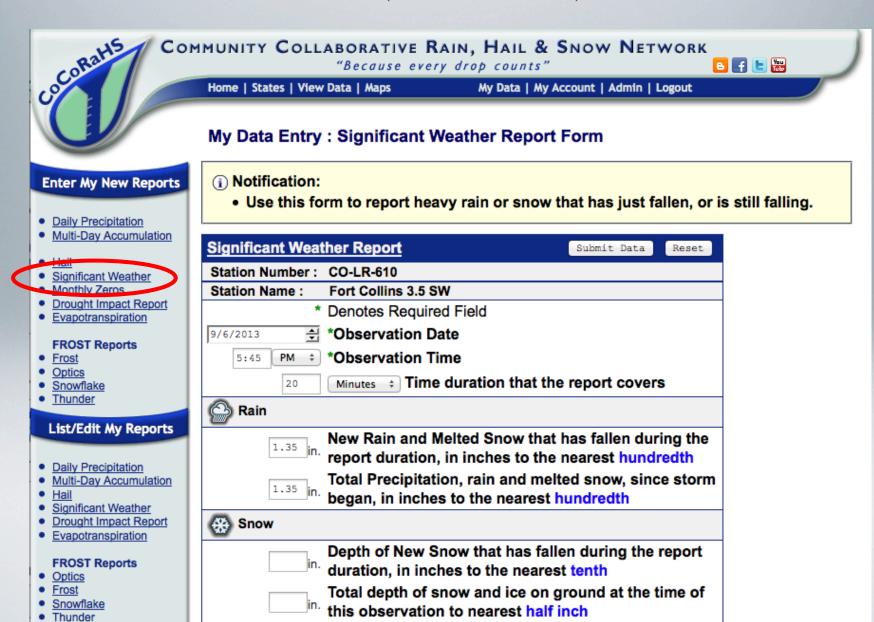
	COCORALIS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK  "Because every drop counts"  Home   States   View Data   Maps							
	,0	Home   States   View	Data   Maps	My Data   My Account   Admin   Logout				
		My Data Entry	: Hail Report Forr	m				
	Enter My New Reports	Hail Report Form Submit Data Res						
	Enter My New Reports	Station Number :	CO-LR-610					
	Daily Precipitation	Station Name :	Fort Collins 3.5 SW					
	Multi-Day Accumulation	*	Denotes Required F	ield				
	• <u>Hail</u>	4/26/2014	*Date of Hail Storm	<b>②</b>				
	• Significant Weather World Zeros	4:50 PM \$	Time Hail Storm Be	egan 🕜				
	Drought Impact Report	<ul><li>Yes ○No</li></ul>	Report was taken a	t registered location?				
	Evapotranspiration	Size of hailstones	•					
	FROST Reports  Frost	Smallest:	1/4" Pea Size	<b>‡</b>				
	Optics	Average:	1/2" Grape	<b>‡</b>				
	Snowflake     Thunder	Largest:	3/4" Penny Size	<b>\$</b>				
	Hail Lasted							
	List/Edit My Reports	15 Minutes	This time is accurate	within 2 min.				
	Daily Precipitation	Hailfall was:	<ul> <li>Continuous ○Inte</li> </ul>	ermittent				
	Multi-Day Accumulation     Hailstones were:							
	Hail     Significant Weather	(Check all that ap	ply)					
	<ul> <li>Drought Impact Report</li> <li>Evapotranspiration</li> <li>FROST Reports</li> <li>Optics</li> <li>Hard Soft Mixed (Hard &amp; Soft) Clear Ice White Ice</li> <li>Was there more rain than hail? Yes No</li> <li>Hail Started:</li> </ul>							
	• Frost	<ul> <li>Before rain</li> </ul>	<ul><li>After rain</li></ul>	○Same time as rain				
	• Snowflake • Thunder  Largest Hail Started							
		○ Before smalle	r • After smaller	Same time as smaller				
		hail	hail	hail				

## Monthly Zeros Report



### Significant Weather Report

(both rain and snow)

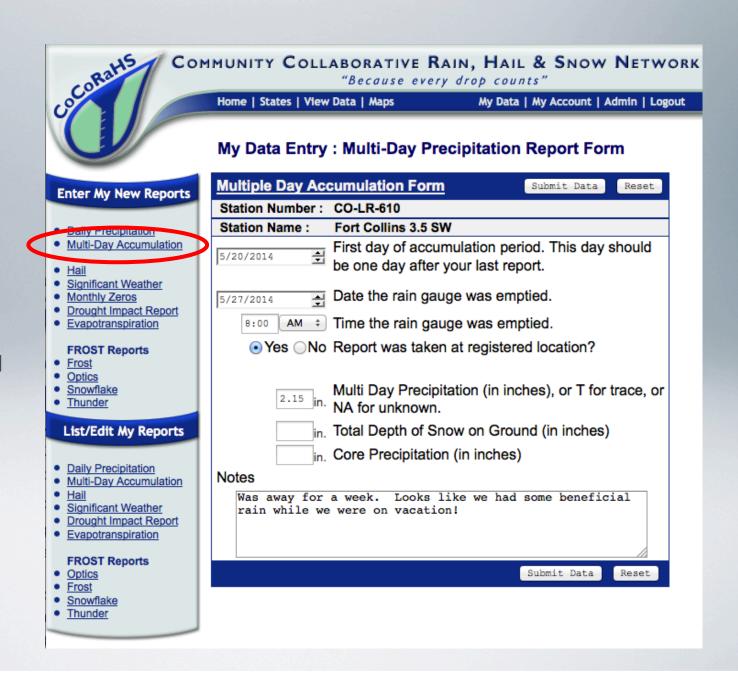


## Multi-Day Precipitation Form

If you are away on vacation or out of town this is the form for you.

Just put in the dates that you were gone and record what you found in the gauge.

There is no need to file an additional daily report.



# Drought Impact Report



### COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK

"Because every drop counts"



Home | States | View Data | Maps

My Data | My Account | Admin | Logout

### My Data Entry: Drought Impact Report Form

#### **Enter My New Reports**

- Daily Precipitation
- Multi-Day Accumulation
- Hail
- Significant Weather
- Monthly Zaroa
- Drought Impact Report
   Drought Impact Report

#### **FROST Reports**

- Frost
- Optics
- Snowflake
- Thunder

#### List/Edit My Reports

- Daily Precipitation
- Multi-Day Accumulation
- Hai
- Significant Weather
- Drought Impact Report
- Evapotranspiration

#### **FROST Reports**

- Optics
- Frost
- Snowflake
- Thunder

### **Drought Impact Report Form**

Submit Data

Reset

Station Number: CO-LR-610

Station Name: Fort Collins 3.5 SW

The significance of drought is tied directly to the impacts that it causes. Identifying and documenting impacts as they first appear and as they continue is essential for comprehensive drought monitoring. Please refer to the <a href="CoCoRaHS training slide show">CoCoRaHS training slide show</a> for reporting drought impacts.

\* indicates required field

#### Duration

Drought is a gradual, slow-moving phenomenon. The start date is an approximation. End dates are not required.

#### Impact Start Date



#### **End Date**

8/25/2013



#### **Condition Monitoring**

□ Condition Monitoring Report

A **Condition Monitoring Report** allows a regular observer to describe normal conditions that are likely to change during drought, to create a basis for comparison. Please check Condition Monitoring Report if that's what you are submitting. If you aren't sure, please leave it unchecked. More information on categories of drought impacts and reports.

#### Description

Please provide a description of how day, normal or wet conditions are affecting you, your livelihood, your activities, etc. \*

The pond by our house has dried up over the summer. Many trees have lost their leaves due to the lack of rain. The corn in our field has not materialized this year and this will impact the feeding of our livestock.

# Section Three

Frequently asked questions

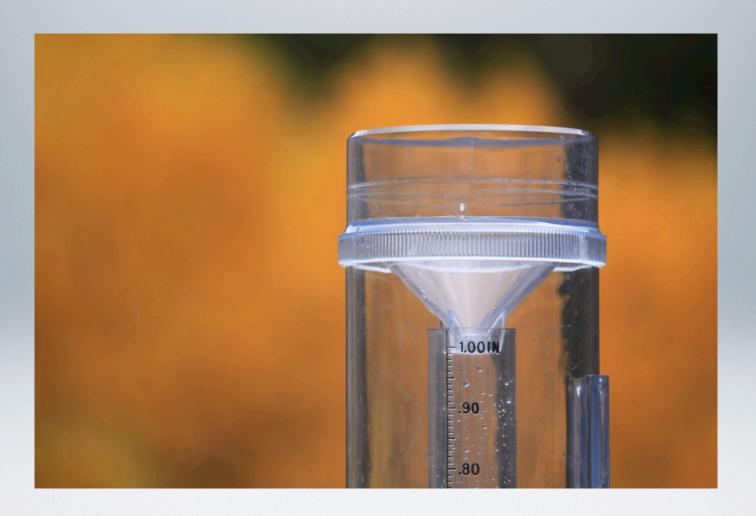


# Do I have to be home everyday to participate in CoCoRaHS?



**Answer:** No. Report when you are able. If you are gone, you may leave your gauge outside and report a multi-day total when you return

### What if I don't have a good place to put my gauge?



**Answer:** Few people have ideal locations. do your best. Send site photos if possible to help interpret the results.

### What if it hails when I'm not home?



**Answer:** We still would like your hail pad. Report as much info as you can find out from friends and neighbors.

Do I report morning dew that has collected in my rain gauge?



**Answer:** No. Dew is not precipitation, but you may note the dew in the comments

### How long is my commitment to CoCoRaHS?



**Answer:** Ideally, at least one season, but the longer you contribute, the more valuable the data become.

I have an automated weather station with a rain gauge. Can I use that instead of the CoCoRaHS gauge?



**Answer:** In order to accurately compare CoCoRaHS reports, all observers <u>must</u> use the 4-inch CoCoRaHS gauge. Automated rain gauges tend to underestimate a heavy rainfall and do not accurately measure water content of snow. You are welcome to place the automated gauge beside the 4-inch gauge to compare measurements, <u>but report what falls in the 4-inch gauge.</u>

### Can I file my observations on my mobile device?

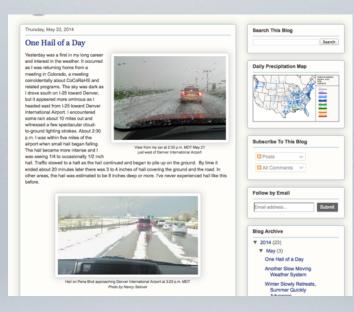


Answer: Yes, a CoCoRaHS app is available for both the iPhone and Android Phone

### Where can I go for additional resources?











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Answer: CoCoRaHS has a variety of resources to connect to from its homepage.

There are educational YouTube videos, the CoCoRaHS Blog, Messages of the Day, State Newsletters,

Measuring Evapotranspiration and a climate guide for Master Gardeners just to name a few. Your can also connect to CoCoRaHS via social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

# You are now ready to measure precipitation for the CoCoRaHS Network



Thanks for being one of our volunteer observers!