The Hoosier Observer

Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

February 2021

January 2021 Statistics

Total observers reporting	453
Observers with no missing reports	276
Percent of total	61
Average Daily Reports per Day	361
Max # of Daily Reports and Day	381 / 06
Significant Weather Reports	36
Condition Monitoring Reports	20
E-T Reports	0
Max Daily Rainfall (County)	1.90" / (Perry)

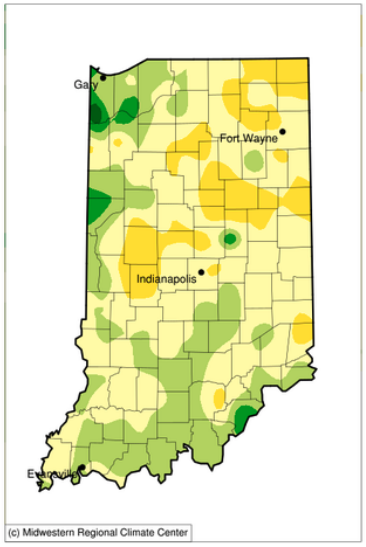
We have certainly been under the gun for a blast of winter over the last couple of weeks across the state. I'd like to thank everyone for all the work you've done going out and taking your snow measurements and melting down each of these snowfalls. It takes a lot more work in the winter to get your measurements and they really are appreciated. In some of these extreme events, your measurements can even make the difference on getting state funding if disaster declarations are made. With all the recent snow, there's been an uptick in errors. Most are obvious like accidentally missing a decimal, but others take a bit more looking into to solve. If you receive an email from one of the coordinators, it really is just to try and ensure the most accurate database of observations. Continue to do the best you can and we'll do the same!
To the 10 new observers (Allen, Decatur, Hamilton, Henry, Lake[2], Marion, Montgomery, Porter[2]) thanks for joining the team!"

January 2021 Precipitation in Indiana

The January 2021 statewide precipitation was 2.39 inches -- 0.20 inches below the 1981-2010 normals. The map shown illustrates the percentage of the 1981-2010 normal precipitation for January 2021. Of the observers that provided data *every day*, the greatest precipitation total for the month was 5.27 inches at CHARLESTOWN 2.6 N (Clark County), whereas the lowest monthly precipitation total was only 0.89 inches at MACY 2.7 SSE (Miami County). Of those with complete monthly records, the maximum 1-day total was 1.80 inches on January 26 at ELIZABETH 1.4 N (Harrison County) and JEFFERSONVILLE 0.8 NW (Clark County).

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Percent of 1981-2010 Normals

January 01, 2021 to January 31, 2021



Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI,
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
Generated at: 2/18/2021 2:45:50 PM CST

2021 Challenge: Recruit More Observers

March Madness is right around the corner. This is the time of year when we step up our efforts to recruit new observers and compete with other states to see which state wins. This year, the Indiana CoCoRaHS Team wants to try something different (in addition to the March Madness effort). This year, we're asking all of you to help recruit with us and we'll acknowledge those of you who recruited the most throughout the year. This isn't just for March, so keep spreading the word. Be sure to ask those who will sign up to be an observer to give credit to you for where they heard about CoCoRaHS. That way we can keep track of all of those you helped bring on board. Word of mouth is great advertising and you're our best promoters!

To SWE, or not to SWE - There is Some Confusion

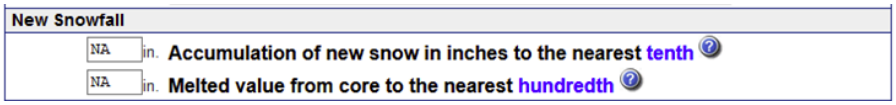
By Steve Hilberg

Indiana has experienced winter's worth of snow in the past few weeks, and we are seeing some confusion on the part of observers on just what is "Snow Water Equivalent". I see many observers copying the amount in the rain gauge into the new snow "melted value from the core" field. The only time you should make an entry in this field is when you actually take a **snow core**, melt, and measure it. The same goes for total snow on the ground.

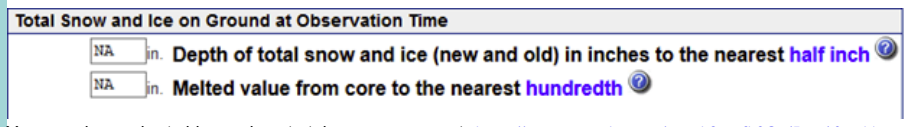
Part of this confusion arises from the term itself. If you just have snow in your rain gauge and you melt it, isn't that you "snow water equivalent"? The answer is yes, and no. Yes, in that it is the water captured from the snow in your rain gauge. The amount is only entered in the field labeled "Rain and Melted Snow..." on the Daily Report form.

in. ***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.**

When we are referring to Snow Water Equivalent (capitalized), or SWE, we are referring to a ***separate and optional*** measurement. This measurement is made by taking a snow core from your snowboard or other flat surface using the outer cylinder. Melt and measure this amount of water, and report it in the field labeled "Melted value from core to the nearest hundredth" in the New Snowfall section of the Daily Report form. This value from a core is the water equivalent of your new snow. Do not enter the amount melted from your rain gauge. The two amounts may or may not be the same. If you do not take a core, then leave this field NA!



The same procedure is used to determine the water contained in the Total Snow and Ice on the Ground. Take a core of snow at a location where the snow is at your measured depth. Melt and measure the snow, and enter it in the field labeled "Melted value from core to the nearest hundredth". If you do not take a core, then leave this field NA!



You can view a short video on how to take a snow core at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfb3Os4Loa4&t=11s

Thanks for Providing Quality Data

by Steve Hilberg

CoCoRaHS has an active quality control process. In addition to basic input checks, a number of people review CoCoRaHS observations for possible errors. Most of the errors are simple - typographical errors, an observation entered for the wrong date, or an inadvertent zero. We track potential errors through a "ticketing system" that helps us track what types of errors are made. This information is used not only to improve the data but to improve training and instructional materials. When we find an observation that is a potential error, that value is usually set to "NA". When an observation needs to be corrected (or in some cases, verified, like for a very high rainfall amount), you may receive an email from me or your local coordinator asking about the observation. Please don't ignore it. We are not criticizing or admonishing you - we just want to clarify or correct an observation. There is nothing to be embarrassed or feel bad about. We include the reason for setting an observation to "NA' in the comments. If you are using the mobile app and see that one of your observations has been set to NA, check the observations notes.

Thanks to those of of you who have received a message from one of our Indiana coordinators about an observation and quickly responded. That really helps to resolve questions about and verify observations. There are 9000 to 12000 CoCoRaHS observations each day and it takes many eyes and a significant effort to check observations and make sure that they are at least reasonable. It really helps when we get a response back from you. Thanks again!

If you Move or Change your Email Address

If you are moving to a new home and want to continue to participate in CoCoRaHS, please let us know as soon as possible. Your observations are tied to a specific location, so we don't want observations from your new location associated with your previous location. The value of the observations is increased by their continuity at that location, so consider suggesting to the buyer or new tenant of your home that they participate in CoCoRaHS! We have a brochure that you can download, print and give to them.

When you know your new address, let us know. When you are ready, we will close your old station and open a new station at your new address (DO NOT sign up for CoCoRaHS again). Once that's done, you can enter observations from your new location. If you are moving to a different state, we can help you get in touch with that state coordinator so you can get started there.

Let us know if you change your email address so that your record is up to date. You can update your email address in the CoCoRaHS database yourself by logging in and clicking on My Account in the top line menu. Click on Edit in the My Information box. Make any corrections, then click save.

Please also send a message to andrew.j.white@noaa.gov with the email change as well, so we can update your address on our newsletter mailing list. This list is maintained separately from the main CoCoRaHS database.

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