

Messages of the Day
February 2016

Monday, February 1, 2016

Weather Preparedness 2016

As part of [NOAA's Weather Ready Nation](#), NOAA encourages you to “Be a Force of Nature” when it comes to extreme weather by learning about potential hazards. Help advance the Weather-Ready Nation by being prepared for the worst. NOAA’s National Weather Service (NWS) and its partners encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to know their risk, take action, and be an example when it comes to dangerous weather.

Look for seasonal campaigns for spring, summer and fall in your state — all designed to keep the public safe. Preparedness event topics include:

- Severe Weather Awareness Week
- Flood Safety Awareness Week
- Tsunami Preparedness Week
- Safe Boating Week
- Rip Current Awareness Week
- Lightning Safety Awareness Week
- Tornado Drill
- Monsoon Awareness Week
- Hurricane Preparedness Week
- Heat Awareness Day
- Avalanche Safety
- Winter Weather Awareness Week

To find out more visit: [Weather Preparedness Events Calendar](#).

Friday, February 5, 2016

The "*Total SWE Monday*" Habit

The [National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center](#) utilizes CoCoRaHS reports of precipitation, snowfall, snow depth and the water equivalent of the snow on the ground every day. CoCoRaHS data provide critical "Ground Truth" information that can improve the skill of their products and models. This will improve the accuracy of flood forecasts in the weeks and months ahead. Click here to see how your [CoCoRaHS SWE Reports](#) are used by NOHRSC

Their guidance to us has been that if you can only report one day a week it's best to all report on the same day. Monday was chosen:

"The analysts at NOHRSC prefer a Total Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) observation taken once a week on Monday. The simple reason is that digging cores every day ruins your sample snowfield area (unless you have a big yard or open fields nearby).

A flood of Monday morning SWE reports gives us a better picture of the overall snowpack instead of a few scattered results trickling in throughout the week. Daily total SWE would be great, but let's make "Total SWE Monday" a habit.

(Note: If you have the room, more frequent observations are appreciated, especially when conditions are changing. For areas that only infrequently get snow, there is no need to wait for Monday -- report SWE whenever you have the chance). For instructions on how to take core samples and report the snowpack SWE, please view our on-line training materials on snow: [Training Slide Shows](#) or watch the YouTube short animation on: [SWE](#).

Monday, February 8, 2016

The CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar! February 2016: Evolving Outdoor Safety through Preparedness Programs

Outdoor weather safety will be the subject of our next ["WxTalk Webinar"](#) on Thursday, February 25th. Join us as ***Evolving Outdoor Safety through Preparedness Programs*** is presented by Charlie Woodrum, the National Decision Support Services Program Manager at NOAA's National Weather Service Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD.

Space is limited to the first 500 registrants, so register today! We will notify the first 500 who register of their acceptance to the Webinar. Those who aren't able to attend will be able to watch this episode on-line the following day.

REGISTRATION INFO

Title: Webinar #45 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: Evolving Outdoor Safety through Preparedness Programs

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016

Time: 1:00 PM Eastern, Noon Central, 11:00 AM Mountain, 10:00 AM Pacific

A Weather-Ready Nation (WRN) cannot be built unless our country's most vulnerable outdoor locations are ready for any weather-related hazard. The most common and deadly weather hazard that impacts outdoor activities is lightning. The threat of lightning strikes resulting in serious injury or death at outdoor venues continues to be a pressing concern for event managers and organizers. Several delays have been documented in the past 5 years in which spectators did not have enough time to evacuate, or chose to wait out delays in unsafe locations. To address this issue, the National Weather Service (NWS) developed a lightning safety toolkit and recognition program that brings meteorologists and venue officials together to encourage and establish sound and proactive action plans when thunderstorms threaten their venue. The toolkit provides guidance used by venues to develop a plan specifically for lightning in addition to the other weather hazards that threaten stadiums. Many large national organizations have embraced the toolkit and encouraged their members to adopt and modify it to meet the specific needs of their local venue. Organizations that adopted plans locally range from little leagues to ski resorts.

Although the large gatherings that often gain the most attention for impacts from lightning are sporting events in large stadiums, there are other vulnerable public venues impacted which have resulted in more fatalities. In the past 5 years alone, the United States recorded 15 lightning fatalities related to fishing and

9 fatalities on beaches. The NWS responded to this need by expanding the toolkits to include templates designed specifically for communities, golf courses, boating, lifeguards, and beach patrols. With this expansion of the toolkits to include community specific scenarios, there is now the opportunity to help Build a Weather-Ready Nation through the utilization of these toolkits by our WRN Ambassadors. Through the combination of these lightning toolkits, , the StormReady®/TsunamiReady® programs, and future adaptations of the toolkits, outdoor planners now have the necessary guidance available to them to create sound plans and execute them effectively during events. Although the tools are available, many still are unaware that these plans exist. Thus, to help these vulnerable locations become more resilient, the meteorology community and WRN Ambassadors must educate partners and help them go the final mile to ensure a plan is in place.

Reserve your seat now by registering here: [WX SAFETY](#)

Be sure to attend our March CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar:

- Thursday, March 24, 2016 - 1PM EDT: "*The Day in the life of a TV Meteorologist*", presented by Alan Sealls, Chief Meteorologist, WKRG, Mobile, AL

Friday, February 12, 2016

"Field Photo Weekend" February 13-15th . . . Celebrate President's Day Weekend by taking a photo or two!

What does your landscape look like in mid-winter or early spring? Have you participated in the CoCoRaHS Field Photos Weekends before? If not, here's your chance to join hundreds of other CoCoRaHS observers to see what our landscapes looks like. If you have participated before, this is a great chance to go back to your favorite spots and see what has changed. This weekend, February 13-15th, you can help by participating in our eleventh "Field Photo Weekend".

All you have to do is take your camera or smartphone, find a landscape in your community (streams, lakes, rivers, reservoirs, a forest, a crop field, a pasture, etc.) and take a single photo or a panorama in four different directions (N, E, S, W) from where you are standing. After that you can either email your photos with your location to: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org, or upload them directly to the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility's photo archive website: "<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos>". For detailed instructions, click here: "[FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS](#)"

If you have a GPS smartphone, you can use the "Field Photo" app, which is now freely available in the "[Apple Store](#)" and "[Google Play Store](#)". You can use your smartphone to take a photo in the field, enter metadata to describe the landscape, and then upload the photo and metadata into the EOMF photo archive website directly from your phone when you have access to WI-FI. When your enter metadata, you may also add "#CoCoRaHSFeb16" keyword.

If you want to see what others have submitted before, go to [Global Geo-Referenced Field Photo Library](#), do a search by a keyword "CoCoRaHS" and/or date, and click on any of the dots (these photos were from Labor Day weekend last September).

Field Photo Weekend is a partnership between CoCoRaHS, the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) and the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility (EOMF) to help ground truth through photos, what is going on with our landscapes throughout the country. It's not just drought we are looking for either, it could be flooding, fire, or whatever state the landscape is now in. There is the possibility that

we may hold additional "Field Photo Weekends" during the year to show how conditions to your landscape may have changed over time. This should be fun!

In a few weeks this weekend's photos will be posted and you'll be able to see your photos and those taken by other volunteers. Reference the ["FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS"](#) page to see how to view the photos.

Remember you don't have to email your photos this weekend, just take them, but we do encourage you to email them soon afterward. That address again is: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org. When uploading your photos please include the words #CoCoRaHSFeb16 in the notes field.

Thanks in advance for participating during the long President's Day weekend!

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Our President's Day "Field Photo Weekend" has come and gone. Thanks for participating. Please remember to upload your photos or email your photos in!

Thanks to all of you who took the time to take photos this past weekend. Your efforts helped our seventh collaborative "Field Photo Weekend" take a look how drought or lack of drought has affected the landscape of our local communities.

Field Photo Weekend is a partnership between CoCoRaHS, the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP), I See Change (<https://www.iseechange.org/>) and the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility (EOMF) to help ground truth through photos, what is going on with our landscapes throughout the country. It's not just drought we are looking for either, it could be flooding, or whatever state the landscape is now in. There is the possibility that we may hold additional "Field Photos Weekends" during the year to show how conditions to your landscape may have changed over time.

In a few weeks this weekend's photos will be posted and you'll be able to see your photos and those taken by other volunteers. Reference "Viewing Photos" on the ["FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS"](#) page to see how to view the photos.

Please don't forget send us your photos of this past "Field Photo Weekend". You can either email your photos with your location and the words (#CoCoRaHSFeb16) to: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org, or upload them directly to the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility's photo archive website: ["http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos"](http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos). When uploading your photos please include the words #CoCoRaHSFeb16 in the notes field. For detailed instructions, click here: ["FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS"](#)

Thanks again for participating!

Saturday, February 20, 2016

Weather Preparedness 2016



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Wednesday, February 17, 2016

The National Snow Analyses (the other NSA)

The [National Snow Analyses](#) by NOHRSC (the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center) are something you may find useful and interesting. The national and regional maps show with fairly good accuracy the current and seasonal (time lapse) snow pack, snow water equivalent, snow melt, etc. One of the inputs that go into NOHRSC analyses are your CoCoRaHS reports. In fact during some years over 50% of NOHRSC's SWE (Snow water equivalent) measurements came from CoCoRaHS observers.

Thanks again for taking those SWE measurements during the winter months!

Friday, February 26, 2016

Prepare for Severe Weather Ahead . . . NWS Severe Weather Training Classes for 2016

It's that time of year when severe weather starts to show up in many sections of the country. Please be ready to report hail and intense rainfall using our appropriate reports:

To report hail: [Hail Report](#)

To report Significant Weather (Intense precipitation): [Significant Weather Report](#)

This month and throughout the spring many National Weather Service offices are holding local in-depth training classes on severe weather on spotting and If you are interested in attending one of these visit: www.weather.gov and click on your local area on the national map. Your local NWS forecast office home page will appear and most likely have a schedule of upcoming severe weather spotter training classes held in your area. These are free and well worth your time.