



South Mississippi CoCoRaHS Newsletter

"Because every drop counts"

Rare Ice/Sleet Storm Strikes Southern Mississippi

Another in a series of Arctic surges of this season came barreling out of Canada into the Deep South early on the 27th of January. This sent temperatures into the lower 30s and upper 20s for much of the area. An upper level disturbance then approached the area from Mexico that activated the Arctic cold front with precipitation on the 28th. Due to the freezing or near freezing conditions at and just above the ground, much of the precipitation fell in the form of sleet or ice pellets. The sleet would then freeze on contact with frozen surfaces and become mixed with freezing rain later in the day on the 29th. Very frigid temperatures ensued the following night with any wet surfaces succumbing to rather thick ice accumulations. Many bridges and roadways were closed for about two full days before a thaw onset late on the 30th.

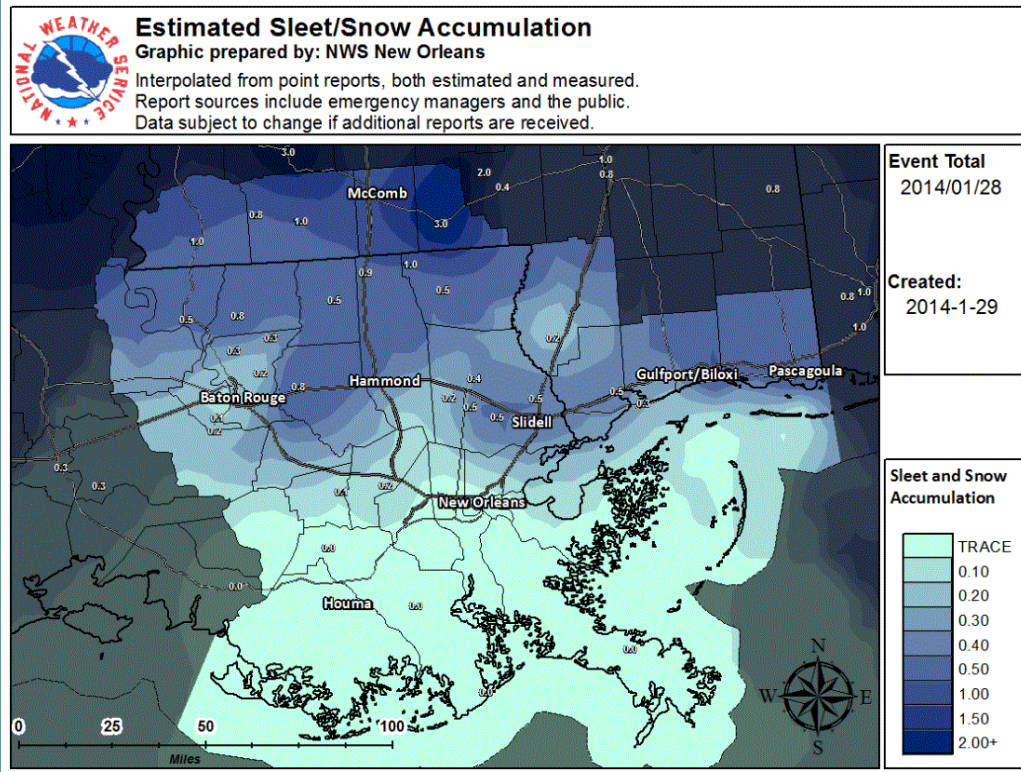
The CoCoRaHS observers provided very good and useful comments to help paint a picture of the situation. They all pretty much resounded the same message of mostly sleet and some snow towards the latter part of the event. Across the state, the swath of higher amounts of snow ranged from 2.5 to 3 inches. Observer at Meadville 0.6 SE (MS-FK-2) measured 2.4 inches. Hazelhurst 8.3 WSW reported 3.0 inches of snow. The image below (called an isohyetal analysis) is an estimated depiction of ice/snow accumulations for the event, with a maximum of 3 inches frozen near Tylertown, MS. The overall general average for the event was 1 to 3 inches across southwest Mississippi counties and between one-quarter and one-half inch across the coastal counties.

Comment of the Month -

From Diamondhead 0.6 WNW (MS-HC-2) on January 29, 2014.

"The gauge had .5 in. of sleet pellets in it. I melted this and it came to 0.32 in of melt. There was no rain or snow. It was all sleet."

This was one of 525 comments submitted in January from the Magnolia State. This selected comment was very similar to many received during the sleet/snow event of the 29th/30th. These type of comments add character to the weather event for historical perspective. Thanks to all for the observations and comments.



JANUARY STATISTICS

Wettest/Driest/Hail/Reporting

- ◆ Wettest Month, State— 5.82” on only 3 multiday reports at Ocean Springs 1.7 W (MS-JC-15)
- ◆ Wettest Month, Local - 4.87” on 15 reports at Diamondhead 1.5 NE (MS-HC-10)
- ◆ Wettest Day, State—1.75” on the 11th at Aberdeen 8.7 E (MS-MN-5)
- ◆ Wettest Day, Local — 1.60” on the 11th at Diamondhead 0.4 E (MS-HC-8)
- ◆ Number of Rain Days—15 with at least 0.01” average in the state on a given day.
- ◆ Driest Month, State—0.74” on 30 reports at Charleston 3.5 SW (MS-TL-1)
- ◆ Driest Month, Local—1.34” on 18 reports at Biloxi 13.1 NNW (MS-HR-34)
- ◆ Hail Reports: None.
- ◆ Stations Reporting: 148; Number of Reports: 3747; Average per day: 120.9
- ◆ Busiest Reporting Day: 11th, average: 0.84”, max amount: 1.75”, number of reports: 131
- ◆ Wettest Reporting Day: 11th, average 0.84”, max amount 1.75”, number of reports: 131
- ◆ Number of 31 report observers: 68 stations statewide

March Madness Drawing Near: State of the network

I am happy to report that we have at least one observer in 6 of the 8 counties within my area of coordination. We have almost accomplished a goal of 100 percent participation from all our Southern Mississippi counties. The only two that are missing are Wilkinson and Walthall Counties. Wilkinson is heavily forested and sparsely populated. I've reached out before to try to get observers in that area with little success. I will contact the forestry service in Woodville to see if they may be interested in participating. Walthall County actually has one observer credited to Pike County, with the reference address on the county line, but it would be terrific to get Ty-lertown involved. I intend to send out a press release in the next couple of weeks targeting those areas, but we can always use observers from other areas as well. We are sooooo close. Across the entire state, there are 450 observers listed, with 374 active. In the local southern Mississippi area, we have 72 active members. Can we get to 80 this march? The county breakdown of active observers are:

Wilkinson: 0

Amite: 4

Pike: 1

Walthall: 0

Pearl River: 10

Hancock: 9

Harrison: 30

Jackson: 18

Keep the rainfall, sleet, snow and hail reports coming!