

# SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CoCoRaHS NEWSLETTER



**FALL 2009**

# WELCOME!!!

This is the second newsletter for CoCoRaHS observers in southern New England (Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island). Daily observations continue to be excellent! As of early October, we have 157 observers in southern New England:

- 51 observers in Connecticut
- 66 observers in Massachusetts
- 40 observers in Rhode Island

Many observers have been reporting daily, even when no precipitation fell. Keep it up! ***Even Trace amounts and "zeroes" are important to CoCoRaHS!***

## CoCoRaHS IN ACTION: SUMMER 2009 HAIL REPORTS

In addition to intense rainfall reports, hail reports are very important to CoCoRaHS. NWS forecasters are automatically alerted once you send a hail or intense rainfall report. Hail reports help forecasters verify what they are seeing on radar, and are used for severe weather verification.

Here is a listing of CoCoRaHS hail reports from this past summer:

### Connecticut:

Date ^	Time	Station Number	Station Name	Average	Largest	Photo	State	County
7/16/2009	10:00 PM	CT-FR-14	Ridgefield 1.4 N	1/4" Pea Size	1/4" Pea Size	--	CT	Fairfield
7/7/2009	1:32 PM	CT-NH-6	Prospect 1.8 NW	1/4" Pea Size	1/2" Grape	--	CT	New Haven
6/27/2009	5:30 PM	CT-FR-12	Stamford 3.3 NW	Rice	1/4" Pea Size	--	CT	Fairfield

## Massachusetts:

Date ^	Time	Station Number	Station Name	Average	Largest	Photo	State	County
7/8/2009	5:00 PM	MA-BR-9	Taunton 2.6 NW	NA	3/4" Penny Size	--	MA	Bristol
7/2/2009	11:58 AM	MA-BA-3	Falmouth 3.0 E	NA	3/4" Penny Size	--	MA	Barnstable
6/27/2009	5:35 PM	MA-MD-4	Townsend 3.2 NW	1/4" Pea Size	1/4" Pea Size	--	MA	Middlesex
5/25/2009	3:30 AM	MA-PL-5	Kingston 3.3 WNW	1" Quarter Size	1 1/2" Ping Pong Ball Size	--	MA	Plymouth

The message here is – don't be afraid to send in an Intense Rain, Hail, or Snow report anytime during the day! They really do help NWS forecasters!!!

## IS YOUR RAIN GAUGE READY FOR WINTER???

Yes, it's almost that time of year! Before you know it, the snowflakes will be flying! You will need to get your rain gauge ready for winter by performing this simple step: **Remove the inner measuring tube and funnel from the gauge!** This will prevent snow from clogging the funnel, and will prevent the inner tube from cracking during cold weather.



# SNOW MEASURING 101

There are four measurements for CoCoRaHS:

- New snowfall
- Liquid water equivalent of new snowfall
- Total snow depth (new snow and old snow/ice)
- Snow water equivalent of total snow on the ground

Here is a brief description of each. For more detailed information, check the Training Slide Shows link on the main CoCoRaHS web page.

## ***New Snowfall:***

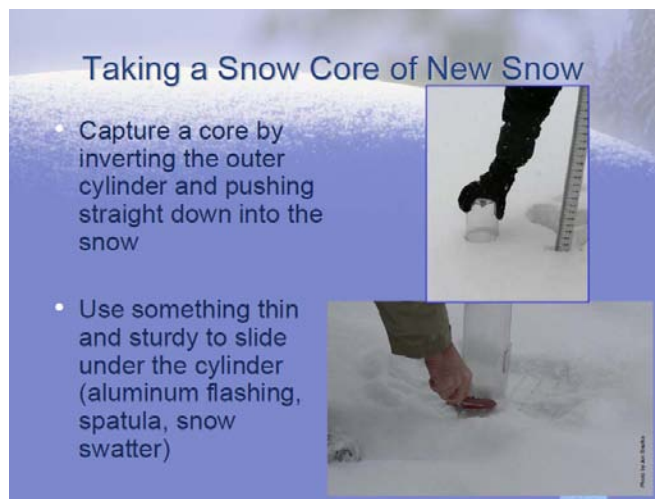
Measure new snowfall as soon as possible after it ends, before settling and melting occur. This often will not be at your regular observation time.

## ***Liquid Water Equivalent of New Snowfall:***

Use your snow board or other hard surface

Take a core after you have measured snow depth, but before you have cleared the board or surface of snow

For example, if you determined the total depth of the new snow is 4 inches, then take your core sample from an area where the depth of new snow is 4 inches



Once you have the core sample, melt the snow and measure the amount of water.

### ***Total Snow Depth:***

Snow is rarely uniform in coverage, so take several measurements and average them to obtain your total depth of snow

Slide the snow stick through all layers of snow (new and old)

Read the value on the snow stick and record to the nearest ½ inch

Don't measure "artificial accumulations" such as plowed piles, large drifts, or shoveled snow

### ***Snow Water Equivalent of Total Snow on the Ground:***

Take a core sample from the snow



Melt the core sample

Measure the amount of water in the sample

### ***What about Freezing Rain?***

Freezing rain is rain that falls in liquid form but freezes on contact with a surface.

Do not report freezing rain as snow. Melt and measure the moisture that has accumulated inside your gauge and report that as your daily precipitation amount.

Report zero for the new snow amount (assuming that no sleet or snow fell)

Enter the total depth of freezing rain (icing) remaining on the ground at the time of observation and enter that in the "Total Snow on Ground" column. Make a note in your comments section so we know it is freezing rain.

***STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Email your State Coordinator!!!***

**Connecticut: Alan Dunham (Alan.Dunham@noaa.gov)**

**Massachusetts: Joe DelliCarpini (Joseph.Dellicarpini@noaa.gov)**

**Rhode Island: Bill Simpson (William.Simpson@noaa.gov)**

## **NEXT NEWSLETTER**

Look for the next Southern New England CoCoRaHS Newsletter during the winter.