

# The Catch

## **COCORAHS—PREPARE FOR PRECIPITATION**

FORT COLLINS, CO — Friday, November 30, 2007

Dear CoCoRaHS team.

Whew, we seem to have survived our little DNS crisis this week. Only a handful of folks quit the project in frustration. Most everyone went back and entered their data reports from Monday and Tuesday, so we didn't lose much. Thanks so much for helping us along.

Remember, you can always go back and enter data that you were unable to enter from previous days. The computer defaults to the current date, but you can use the "date clicker" (the up and down arrows just right of the date) to advance or go backwards to a previous date.

Also, in the "Observation Time" field remember to enter the actual time when you checked and emptied your gauge. If it is not raining or snowing at your observation, the exact time doesn't matter much. However, if you are receiving precipitation at the time of your observation, it really helps us if you type in the exact time that you took the reading.

### **Storm is coming!!**

It has been raining across southern California, Arizona and parts of New Mexico this morning. This storm is predicted to now track across the country from SW to NE bringing widespread precipitation over the weekend. It could include freezing rain, sleet and snow from the southern Rockies up to the Great Lakes. Also, there will be another chance for widespread rains across the Southeast.

<http://www.weather.gov/forecasts/graphical/sectors/>

Please be prepared to measure and report this precipitation. If snow and ice are possible, make sure you have removed the inner tube and funnel and brought them inside. Also, make sure your outer cylinder will not be frozen solid in its mounting bracket in the event of snow or freezing rain. I just remove mine from the bracket ahead of time so I don't face that crisis. Pouring warm water on the

bracket until the ice melts and the gauge can be removed also works -- but don't spill water into the gauge by accident.

Freezing rain is NOT reported as snowfall, but if you do get an accumulation of ice, report the radial thickness (radius, not diameter, of ice that has accumulated on wires, branches, and similar above-ground objects) in your comments. Report the depth of ice that accumulates on the ground surface as "Depth of Total Snow (and ice) on the ground at your observation time"

Sleet is precipitation that forms as rain but then falls through subfreezing air beneath the cloud and begins to freeze. Sleet is "Frozen Precipitation" whereas freezing rain is rain that freezes on contact on object on and near the ground. That is know as "freezing precipitation". Frozen precipitation is measured and reported the same as plain snow.

### **Reporting more than once a day!**

Some of you are eager to report precipitation totals during a storm! This can be very useful information. However, you can only submit ONE daily precipitation report each day via CoCoRaHS -- and ideally that should be close to 7 AM (or whatever time works best for your schedule).

To submit additional or preliminary reports during the day --- for rain, snow or both -- please use the "Intense Precipitation Report" We are flexible about what the definition of "intense" is since it varies from place to place across the country. So if the rain and snow that you are receiving seems significant, please go ahead and use the "intense" report. You can enter as many "intense" reports in a day as you feel are necessary.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Admin/MyDataEntry/IntensePrecipReport.aspx>

### **4000 plus!!**

In the last few weeks, when I wasn't paying close attention, we surpassed the 4000 mark for daily precipitation reports on more than one occasion. That is a LOT of volunteers and we REALLY appreciate your efforts. However (are we never satisfied), we live in a really big country. We could accommodate tens of thousands of additional rain and snow reports and, since precipitation is so important and SO VARIABLE, we still would have parts of our states and counties where we would be in the dark. So keep spreading the word to friends, family, co-workers, etc.

## **Welcome Oregon!!!**

Today we welcome our 26th CoCoRaHS state. Already a few dozen Oregonians have signed up, and the first precipitation reports are beginning to trickle in. Welcome aboard!!!

Rest well: Have a good weekend -- to start the month of December. And for those who hate winter, keep in mind that it's only 16 weeks to spring!

Regards,

*Nolan Doesken*