

# The Catch

## COCORAHS -- SNOW AND ICE

FORT COLLINS, CO — Sunday, February 12, 2012

Dear CoCoRaHS rain gauge team:

This is a short note of snow encouragement. The winter has been so mild and snow free for much of the country, but that has been changing lately. Today, snow (and, unfortunately sleet and freezing rain, too) will be spreading from Texas and New Mexico up into the Midwest and Ohio River Valley. Many of you will have frozen precipitation to measure in the next couple of days.

If winter weather is headed your way -- and if you feel out of practice for measuring and reporting snow and ice, please take a few minutes to review the instructions (you'll find them from the CoCoRaHS home page [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org)). Also remember that we did a couple of online classes (webinars) on measuring snow. These were very well received and have been archived. You can view them anytime you need to.

Here is the link to our most complete "How to Measure Snow" video.

<http://www.youtube.com/cocorahs/#p/u/3/eWbbj57fOcA>

And if you have any questions, just ask. We have a whole team of weather experts across the country -- our CoCoRaHS Volunteer Coordinators -- who can help you out. Use the [info@cocorahs.org](mailto:info@cocorahs.org) e-mail to ask your questions because my mail box sometimes gets overrun :-)

I have one request. When you are reporting your ice and snowfall, remember that the first data entry field "Rain and Melted Snow . . . ." is where you enter the WATER CONTENT of the precipitation that fell and not the depth of new snow or other frozen precipitation. We get a few of those reports each day from well-meaning observers but they sure do a number on our national precipitation maps and they keep our "Date

Quality Control" meteorologist very busy.

Also, remember to please take it easy and don't risk your good health for CoCoRaHS. If it's really icy outside and you could slip on your way to or from your gauge -- then take it easy and wait until the footing gets better.

Now that I'm back from several trips and meetings, I have a whole lot of news to pass on, but that will come later this week.

Best wishes to all of you -- and a warm welcome to all who have just joined CoCoRaHS in the past month since I last wrote.

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