

The Catch



NOLAN DOESKEN'S BI-MONTHLY COCORAHHS E-MAIL MESSAGE

CoCoRaHS -- Whopper Snowstorm Alert!

Fort Collins, Colorado -- January 26th, 2015

Whopper Snowstorm Alert!

Much of the country will be mild and dry for the next few days (60s expected here in northern Colorado, believe it or not). But the next two days could be memorable for parts of the Northeast as a developing storm system takes aim on the Northeast Corridor from Washington DC to New York and on to Boston, southern Maine and the Atlantic provinces of Canada. Furthermore, there is the possibility of a second storm, too -- later in the week.

All eyes will be on the Northeast and many will be looking to CoCoRaHS for timely reports of snowfall and water content. Be ready!

Good luck to all of you in the cross hairs of this developing storm. Don't put yourself at risk as temperatures will be cold, winds will be very strong and snowfall rates could exceed 2" per hour at times. But if you are in a position to safely take observations, do your best. For areas receiving more than 6-8" of snow from this storm, it may be necessary to take multiple measurements about every 6 hours so the gauge does not clog up and overtop. With strong winds the snow doesn't always collect well in the gauge, so core samples may be required to obtain representative measurements of precipitation and snow water equivalent.

If you need a refresher on snow measurements under adverse conditions, here are some resources:

- [2-Minute Animation Shorts: Measuring Snow](#)
- [Measuring Snow: Flaky Situations and Sensible Solutions](#)

[Written Instructions \(with more links on the right side of the page\)](#)

- [Slide Show \(PDF\)](#)

Do your best, and if you have questions or problems, let us know. If you are able to measure the daily snowfall and total depth of snow on the ground, but you aren't able to get a measurement of the water content, then just type in NA in the "Rain and Melted Snow" field on your entry form.

While there are many sources of weather information these days, it is always a good idea to have a direct link to the [National Weather Service](http://www.weather.gov) (<http://www.weather.gov>). CoCoRaHS is also an Ambassador of NOAA's Weather-Ready Nation Team. It is important that you know your risks and are ready to take action. [Please view this excellent presentation on Winter Weather Safety.](#)

CoCoRaHS Blog - Will History Repeat Itself?

The CoCoRaHS Blog has a great piece today about this storm, and the similarities of this forecast to the "Blizzard of '78" where southern New England was buried in 20 to 30 inches of snow, and a small area of 50+ inches of snow was reported in northern Rhode Island. [Click here to read more.](#)

Rain in Southern California

It is also looking good that southern California will be getting some rain on Monday. Every drop counts as CA continues to deal with widespread drought!

Thanks in so many ways

I so appreciate all of your help in measuring rain and snow and also in helping provide financial resources to sustain CoCoRaHS ([you can still get a calendar for the bargain price of \\$7.50/each - click here!](#)). With the help of a surge of last-minute donations, our total for the 2014 year-end fundraiser ended up surpassing \$40,000. Thanks SO MUCH!

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken and the CoCoRaHS team
NOAA's Weather Ready Nation Ambassador Program
Colorado State University

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