



## The Hoosier Observer

Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

July 2020

### June 2020 Statistics

Total observers reporting	515
Observers with no missing reports	304
Percent of total	59
Average Daily Reports per Day	418
Max # of Daily Reports and Day	476 / 23
Significant Weather Reports	22
Condition Monitoring Reports	83
E-T Reports	260
Max Daily Rainfall (County)	6.48" (Posey)

We had 400 daily reports on all but 2 days for the month of June, which is incredible considering the last few years we struggled to get 400 reports on any day in the month. We'd like to thank everyone who has joined lately to help us reach that goal.

Now that we've reached that milestone, we'd love to see a day with 500 reports. Last month we were within 24, so let's see if we can do it in July!

To the 10 new observers (Vanderburgh, Hamilton [2], Madison, Allen, Wayne, Randolph, Kosciusko, Johnson, St. Joseph, and Grant counties), thanks for joining the team!

### June Precipitation in Indiana

The June 2020 statewide precipitation was 3.46 inches -- 0.78 inches below the 1981-2010 average. The driest part of the state were in the northeast and around the Greene-Monroe-Morgan county area. Of the observers that provided data every day, the greatest precipitation total for the month was 6.84 inches at FREDERICKSBURG 3.6 NNE (Washington County), and the maximum 1-day total was 3.53 inches on June 30 at ELLETTSVILLE 2.7 NE (Monroe County). Reporting in with 93% of the possible observations, KENTLAND 1.7 SSE (Newton County) observed 5.7" on June 28.

### Guidelines for Significant Weather Reports

By Steve Hilberg

The CoCoRaHS Significant Weather Report (SWR) allows observers to report precipitation and other weather phenomenon that occur between the standard observation times. The original intent (and still the large focus of this report) is to report significant accumulations of precipitation that occur during shorter intervals during the day. For example, a thunderstorm might drop an inch of rain in a 30-minute period, or significant snowfall could be reported hourly or every 3 hours. Flooding associated with this precipitation should also be reported using the SWR. High winds or wind damage as well as other phenomena can also be reported using the SWR, but the information needs to be included in the comments, as there is no field for these.

These reports are intended to record "short term" events from minutes to hours, but not more than 24 hours. The SWRs are automatically routed to the local National Weather Service office to aid in monitoring of weather conditions for possible alerts and warnings and documentation of storm events. As such, their greatest utility is in the short term, and duplicating a daily report, for example, in a Significant Weather Report is unnecessary.

#### What Should Not Be Reported with the Significant Weather Report

Since the intention of the SWR is to report "short term" weather (*i.e.*, less than 24 hours), the following should NOT be reported using the SWR:

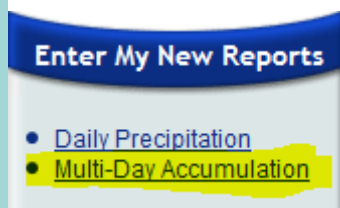
- Your regular daily precipitation amount. Even though that amount may be high and what you deem "significant", there is no need to double report it. Any notes of "significance" about the precipitation accumulation should be included in the observation notes.
- Accumulations of precipitation over several days. Even though you may have received, for example, 6.25 inches of rain over two days and it is in almost every case significant, this data is contained in the daily precipitation reports. It does not meet the "short term" criteria. Comments about the total can be included with the daily observation(s).
- Hail. Hail should be reported using the CoCoRaHS Hail Report.

Note that the SWR can only be submitted on the web site -- it is not yet available on the mobile app. If you have any questions about what should or should not be reported as significant weather using these reports feel free to email us.

### It's Vacation Time -- the Semi-Regular Multi-Day Report Reminder

By Steve Hilberg

We're in the middle of summer and the time of year when many of us head out of town for a long weekend or on vacation (though maybe less this year than in past years). Obviously, you cannot take your observation and report if you're not at home (unless you have someone take care of it for you). Do we still want to know the total in your rain gauge when you get back home? Absolutely!!! Your commitment and effort for CoCoRaHS doesn't require you to be there every day to watch for rain, but we would still like to know what you had. And yes, we have a form to take care of this. The Multi-Day Accumulation form is probably going to be the web form you use the most other than your Daily Precipitation form. The only amount you should be reporting on the Daily Precipitation form is the 24-hour (more or less, depending on actual ob time) total. If you are gone for more than a day we still want to know the amount of precipitation you had. While we won't have the day-by-day breakdown of amounts, the total you measure is still very valuable information when we are looking at weekly, monthly or longer precipitation totals.



Here's an example. Let's say you leave on Friday morning, June 17 (after your 7:00 a.m. morning observation) for a long weekend away. You return in the evening of Monday, June 20, and you notice there is water in your rain gauge. How do you handle this?

If you will be taking an observation the next morning, wait until then. On Tuesday morning, read your rain gauge at the usual time. Let's say there was 0.75 inches in the rain gauge. Do not report this using the Daily Precipitation form! Instead, fill out the Multi-Day Accumulation form. The form is easy to follow. Using our example:

6/18 First day of accumulation period. This day should be one day after your last report (your last observation was the morning of 6/17)

6/21 Date the rain gauge was emptied (in our example this is your regular observation the morning after you returned (6/20))

7:00 a.m. Time the rain gauge was emptied. (the regular time of your observation. If you empty at a different time, put that time in this field, but try to do this at your regular observation time.)

0.75 Multi-Day Precipitation (in inches) (this is the total in your rain gauge).

First day of accumulation period. This day should be one day after your last report.

Date the rain gauge was emptied.

Time the rain gauge was emptied.

Yes  No Report was taken at registered location?

in. Multi Day Precipitation (in inches), or T for trace, or NA for unknown.

in. Total Depth of Snow on Ground (in inches)

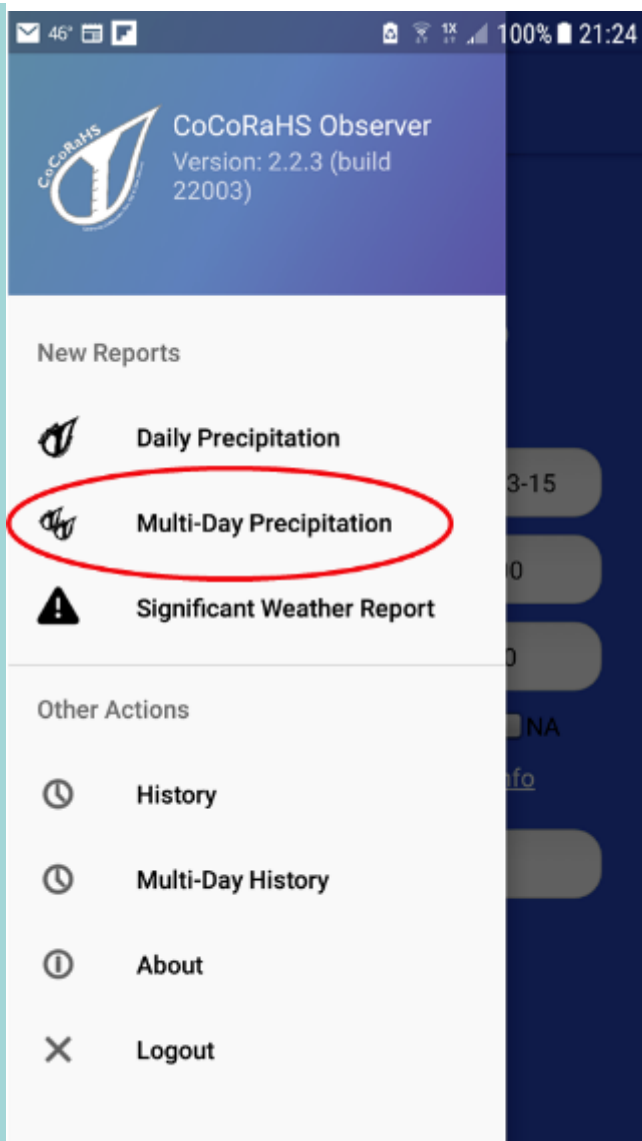
in. Core Precipitation (in inches)

**Notes**

During the winter you should also include the information for the snow that is on the form. Also, include any comments that would help interpret your observation.

You are also able to enter multi-day reports using the mobile app. After you log...

- Android Users: in press the menu button in the top left corner of the screen to see the menu below, and then select "Multi-Day Precipitation". See screenshot below
- iPhone Users: Find the "Multi-Day Report" icon at the bottom of the app



Remember, if you enter a Multi-Day total you cannot enter a Daily Precipitation Report for any of those days. Questions?? Contact us if you need help.

### **See Hail? File a Hail Report, not Just a Comment!**

by Steve Hilberg

We have had a number of occasions in the past couple of weeks where the thunderstorms have produced some hail, both small and damaging. Everyone is good about including notes about hail in their comments, and that's great. However, we would really like you to submit a CoCoRaHS Hail Report when the hail is occurring or soon after. Why is that? Two reasons. First, the hail reports are immediately forwarded to your local NWS office, where they may be used to issue or extend warnings or verify severe weather. Second, your hail report is entered into the CoCoRaHS hail database, really the only of its kind in the country. Someone using that data may use your hail report to verify severe weather, or help someone document hail damage to their property for an insurance claim. After some hail that occurred in central Illinois last week, Chris Geelhart, a meteorologist at NWS Lincoln and a CoCoRaHS observer, posted this message to the Illinois CoCoRaHS Facebook group.

"A general plug from the NWS side of CoCoRaHS. If you receive hail, make sure to use the hail reporting form from the CoCoRaHS web site, so we can receive your report in real time. They help us determine whether or not severe thunderstorm warnings need to be continued. Radar signatures that normally are indicative of hail can yield different results at different times of the year. Even if you relay this some time after the storm has passed, we can use these reports in our Storm Data publication for the official archives."

You can find the hail report in the "Enter My New Reports" menu on the web site. Fill in as much information as you have when entering. Time and hail size is the most important. You can always go back and add info later by editing your report, but the critical information will get to the NWS. You cannot enter a Hail Report on the app at this time. We hope to have that available on the app in the future.

## My Data Entry : Hail Report Form

**Enter My New Reports**

- [Daily Precipitation](#)
- [Multi-Day Accumulation](#)
- Hail**
- [Significant Weather](#)
- [Monthly Zeros](#)
- [Condition Monitoring Report](#)
- [Soil Moisture](#)
- [Evapotranspiration](#)

**FROST Reports**

- [Frost](#)
- [Optics](#)
- [Snowflake](#)
- [Thunder](#)

**List/Edit My Reports**

- [Daily Precipitation](#)
- [Multi-Day Accumulation](#)
- [Hail](#)
- [Significant Weather](#)
- [Condition Monitoring Report](#)
- [Soil Moisture](#)
- [Evapotranspiration](#)

**FROST Reports**

[Submit Data](#)   [Reset](#)

**Hail Report Form**

**Station Number :** IL-CP-1

**Station Name :** Homer 2.0 N

\* **Date of Hail Storm** ?

PM \* **Time Hail Storm Began** ?

Yes  No **Report was taken at registered location?**

**Size of hailstones**

**Smallest:**

**Average:**

**Largest:**

**Hail Lasted**

Minutes This time is accurate within

**Hailfall was:**    Continuous  Intermittent

**Hailstones were:**

(Check all that apply)

Hard  Soft  Mixed (Hard & Soft)  Clear Ice  White Ice

**Was there more rain than hail?**    Yes  No

**Hail Started:**

Before rain    After rain    Same time as rain

**Largest Hail Started**

Before smaller    After smaller    Same time as smaller

### **If you Move or Change your Email Address**

If you are moving to a new home and want to continue to participate in CoCoRaHS, please let us know as soon as possible. Your observations are tied to a specific location, so we don't want observations from your new location associated with your previous location. The value of the observations are increased by their continuity at that location, so consider suggesting to the buyer or new tenant of your home that they participate in CoCoRaHS! We have a brochure that you can download, print and give to them.

When you know your new address, let us know. When you are ready, we will close your old station and open a new station at your new address (DO NOT sign up for CoCoRaHS again). Once that's done, you can enter observations from your new location. If you are moving to a different state, we can help you get in touch with that state coordinator so you can get started there.

Let us know if you change your email address so that your record is up to date. You can update your email address in the CoCoRaHS database yourself by logging in and clicking on My Account in the top line menu. Click on Edit in the My Information box. Make any corrections, then click save.

Please also send a message to [andrew.j.white@noaa.gov](mailto:andrew.j.white@noaa.gov) with the email change as well, so we can update your address on our newsletter mailing list. This list is maintained separately from the main CoCoRaHS database.



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