



The Hoosier Observer

Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

November 2020

October 2020 Statistics

Total observers reporting	526
Observers with no missing reports	331
Percent of total	63
Average Daily Reports per Day	430
Max # of Daily Reports and Day	467 / 21
Significant Weather Reports	8
Condition Monitoring Reports	47
E-T Reports	172
Max Daily Rainfall (County)	4.48" / (Vanderburgh)

We are beginning to see the seasonal drop-off in numbers of reports as some of our observers end for the winter months. We look forward to seeing your reports in the spring, and wish you the best during these colder months!

As the transition continues into the winter reporting season, we'd like to thank all of you who attended the winter training webinars late last month. Winter precipitation can be difficult to measure and we want everyone to know that if you ever have any questions, feel free to reach out to any of the state or regional coordinators.

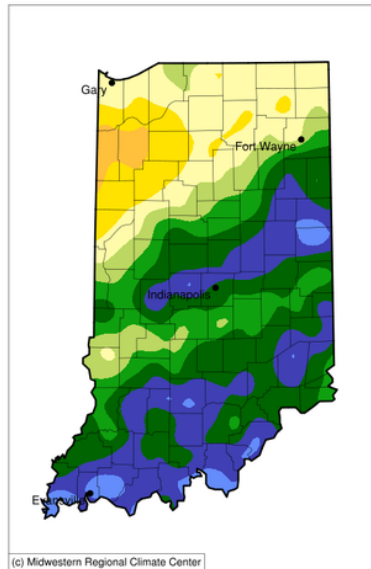
To the 21 new observers (Allen, Boone, Daviess, Hancock [2], Hendricks, Jackson, Madison, Marion [7], Miami, Owen, Tippecanoe [2], Vanderburgh, Warrick), thanks for joining the team!

October Precipitation in Indiana

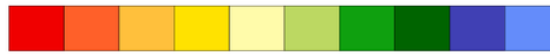
The October 2020 statewide precipitation was 4.36 inches -- 1.09 inches above the 1981-2010 average. The monthly total range in precipitation throughout the state spanned from just over an inch (Newton and Jasper counties) to almost eight inches along the southern counties! The map shown illustrates the percentage of the 1981-2010 normal precipitation for October 2020. Of the observers that provided data every day, the greatest precipitation total for the month was 8.77 inches at BOONVILLE 4.5 WSW (Warrick County), whereas the lowest monthly precipitation total was only 1.33 inches at MOUNT AYR 1.6 NNE (Newton County). Of those with complete monthly records, the maximum 1-day total was 3.77 inches on October 29 at NEWBURGH 1.3 ENE (Warrick County).

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Percent of 1981-2010 Normals

October 01, 2020 to October 31, 2020



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwestern Regional Climate Center
 cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
 Generated at: 11/16/2020 4:17:31 PM CST

Indiana Winter Precipitation Training Webinars

A big thank you to all who were able to attend either of the online training webinars at the end of October for measuring and reporting frozen precipitation for CoCoRaHS.

If you were unable to attend either webinar, a recording is available at <https://youtu.be/P0yWsprj3FQ>. Additionally, there are various shorter [training videos](#) offered through the main CoCoRaHS website.

Prepping for Winter Observations

By Steve Hilberg

Now that the weather seems to be more seasonable, winter weather will not be too far behind. There are a few things that you should do to prepare for winter measurements.

You should remove the funnel and the inner measuring tube from your outer cylinder. If water accumulates in the inner tube and freezes, it could crack it and will need to be replaced. Removing the funnel also allows snow to fall directly into the outer cylinder, after which it can be melted and measured. If you leave the funnel in the cylinder, snow will not be able to fall through the 1/4-inch opening into the cylinder and the cylinder will clog. Also, many observers find that having an extra outer cylinder is very handy not only during the winter, but also in the warm season. It's easy to swap out cylinders and bring one in for melting and measuring, even if it is still snowing. You can order an extra outer cylinder at www.weatheryourway.com. Most observers choose to keep the funnel and inner tube inside the entire winter so they don't have to worry about making sure it gets brought inside before it freezes.

If you are measuring and reporting the depth of new snow, it's a good idea to have a snowboard. You can make your own snowboard by cutting a piece of 1/2" - 3/4" plywood to approximately a 16" X 24" rectangle (you can make it a little larger if you wish) and then painting it white. Place the snowboard by your rain gauge or in an area that is not subject to drifting. Be sure to mark it with a flag or a driveway reflector so you can locate it once snow

has fallen.

To "NA" or not to "NA"...

by Steve Hilberg

When you pull up your Daily Report form on the web, all fields except for the precipitation field are set to "NA". "NA", in our case, means "Not Available" or missing. If there is no precipitation, then zero is the correct report. "NA" does not mean "no precipitation". Also, please do not submit NA reports with no data anywhere on the form. If you do not have an observation (remember, zeroes ARE an observation) for a particular day, then there is no need to submit anything at all. One situation that occurs frequently is that an observer may submit a multi-day accumulation as a daily report, then realize they needed to submit a multi-day report. In order to do that, the incorrect daily report must be set to "NA", or you will get an error message when you try to enter the correct multi-day report. That's because two observations for the day cannot exist in the database. Each day must be represented by a daily accumulation, or part of a multi-day accumulation. The daily report, which is now "NA", must be deleted from the CoCoRaHS database. If not, then it will affect the correct listing of your data in data summaries. To have the record deleted, be sure to email us with your station number and date for the record to be deleted and we will take care of it.

A situation where "NA" is allowed for precipitation is when reporting snowfall. If it is still snowing at observation time and you cannot bring in your gauge to melt and measure, you can still measure and report the depth of the snow. To do this, enter "NA" for your precipitation, and then enter your snow depth in the New Snow section of the report. The Daily Report will not allow a zero for precipitation and a non-zero amount for snow because, after all, snow is precipitation. You can report your melted precipitation and total snowfall the next day using the Multi-Day Accumulation form. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions about any of this.

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 is 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 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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