### CoCoRaHS "Because Every Drop Counts"







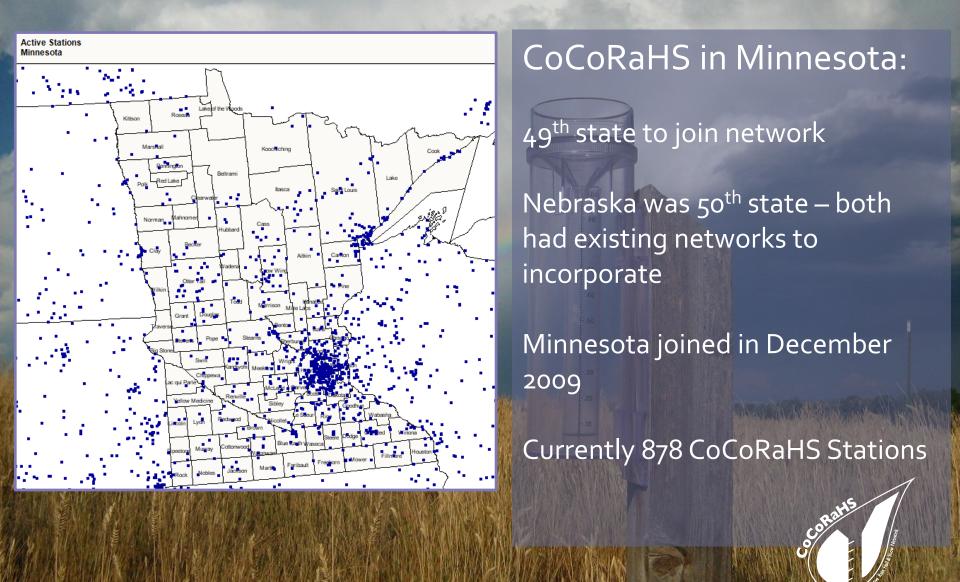
Michael Griesinger
National Weather Service - Twin Cities



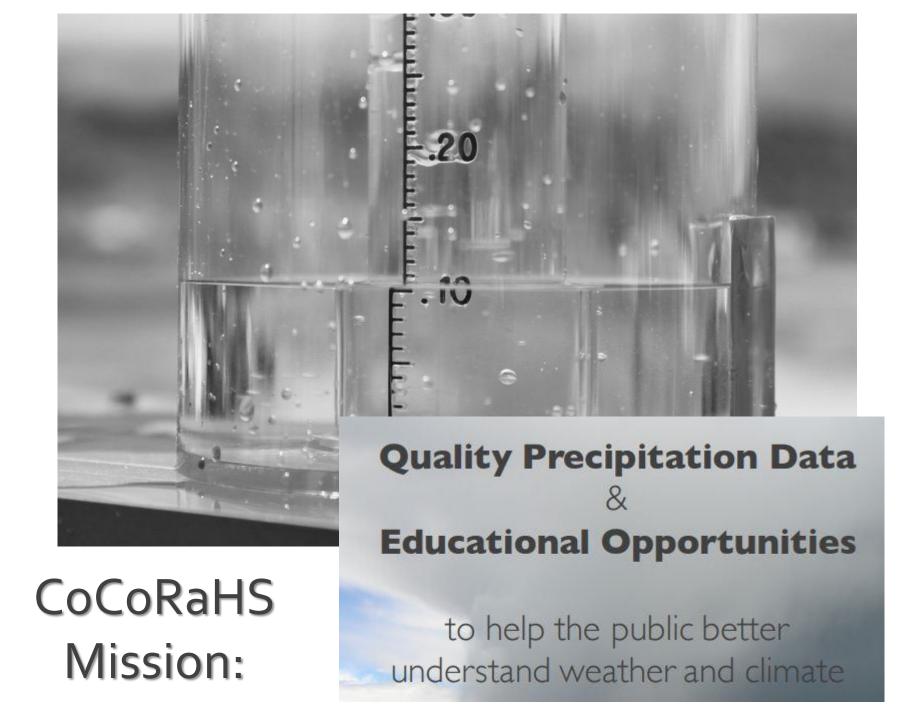
- Non-profit, community based network of volunteers
- Uses low-cost measuring tools
- User-friendly website to share data and provide training resources
- Provides high-quality data for natural resource, education and research applications
- Stations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, and Canada



Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network

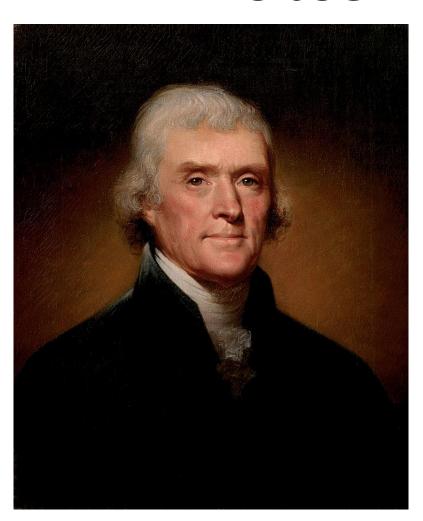


Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network



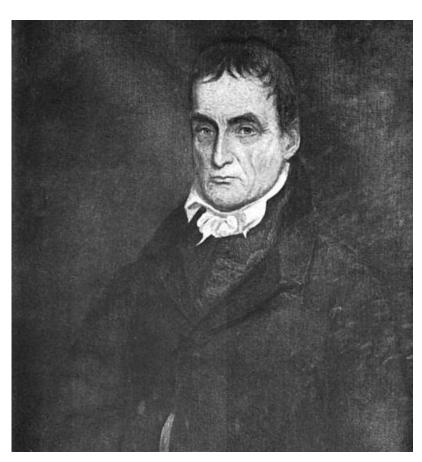


John Campanius Holms took first known systematic weather observations in 1644 in Wilmington, Delaware



In 1776, Thomas Jefferson began recruiting weather observers across Virginia.

By 1800, there were volunteer observers in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and North Carolina



In 1814, surgeon general James Tilton issued order to conduct weather observations at all Army posts

This is often viewed as the first seed that was planted for what has become the National Weather Service



In 1848, Joseph Henry (Smithsonian) initiated telegraphic network of 150 volunteer weather observers

By 1860 this network had grown to 500 observers



1870, President Ulysses S. Grant signed legislation into low to create a national weather service

Brigadier General Albert Myer was first director of this weather operation in the US Signal Service Corps

November 1, 1870 at 735 am, first synchronized observations from across the nation were collected

1891, over 2000 volunteer weather observers existed and they were collected into what is the COOP weather observer program

## CoCoRaHS was born in response to the devastating 1997 Fort Collins, Colorado flood



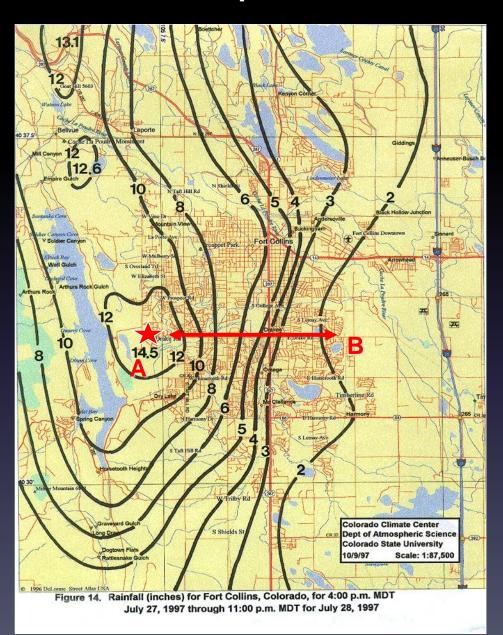








### The flood pointed out:





- 1. Extreme local variations in rainfall
- 2. The important role individuals can play in measuring, mapping and reporting precipitation.

Point A = 14.50'' of rain Point B = 2.00'' of rain

Distance between A and B = 5 miles

1998

### Today

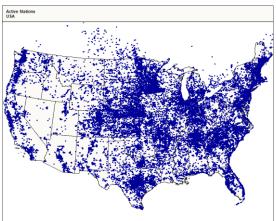












A few dozen volunteers in Northern Colorado

20,000+ volunteers in all 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Bahamas

CoCoRaHS and a simple rain gauge can become a "lowest common denominator", opening all kinds of doors for partnerships and collaborations with many organizations. We strive to supplement and enhance their missions.



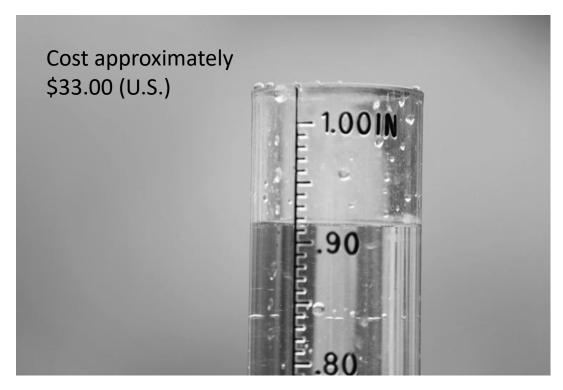
The goal is to help others succeed by providing quality data that they can use in a variety of ways

## Volunteer observers report daily ~7:00 AM local time



Observations between 5:00 AM and 9:00 AM are ideal

### Simple, easy-to-use low cost equipment



Gauge measures to 0.01" (0.2mm), holds 11.30" (260 mm) of precipitation.



Everyone uses the same rain gauge for consistency of observations.



## Rainfall data

CoCoRaHS has quickly become the largest source of daily precipitation measurements in the United States



## Snowfall data

CoCoRaHS Volunteers measure both <u>snowfall</u> (new and accumulated) as well as the <u>water content</u> of the snow



## Hail data

CoCoRaHS has become one of the largest repositories of hail data in the United States

### **Snow Measurements**

Two ways in which snow is measured

Our observers measure:

- 1. Liquid water content of snow
  - from the gauge
  - from a core sample
- 2. Depth of snow
  - 24 hour snowfall accumulation
  - existing snow depths





# What is your landscape's current WET? NORMAL? Tell us by submitting a "CoCoRaHS Condition Report" DRY?







Dry ← Normal ← Wet

#### A Guide to Monitoring your Local Conditions



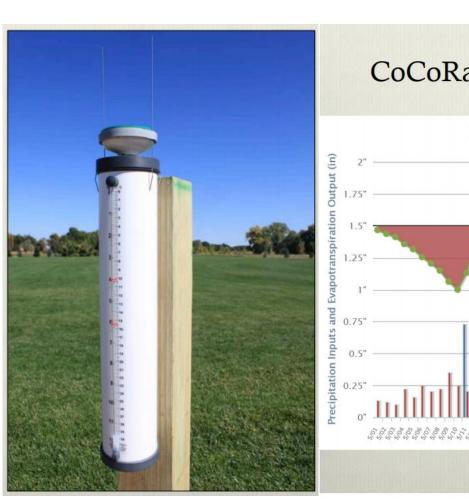




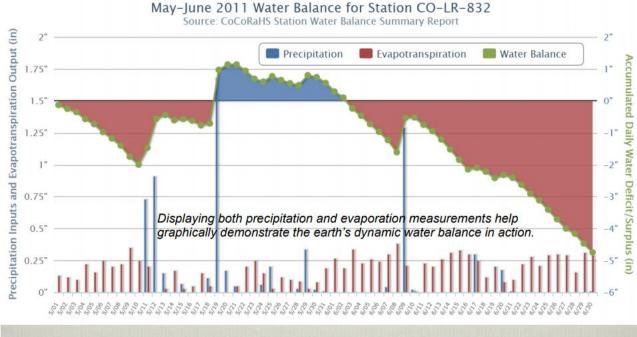




## Evapotranspiration – "ET gauge"



#### CoCoRaHS graphical Water Balance display



Precipitation variable, ET<sub>o</sub> fairly consistent

#### **CoCoRaHS Soil Moisture Monitoring**







#### Why Soil Moisture?

The 0-2" soil samples have the potential to be used in calibration-validation effort by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Soil Moisture Active-Passive Satellite (SMAP). The 7-9" samples are suitable for aiding in the drought monitoring process, which is an operation lead by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This is also a great opportunity to play outside, get your hands dirty, and learn something!



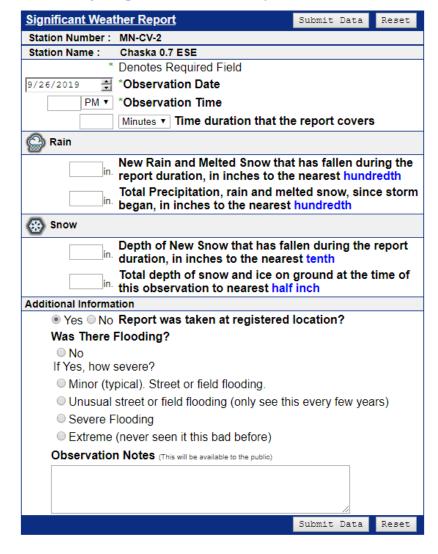
#### **Getting Equipped:**

CoCoRaHS will be providing soil moisture measurement kits for the cost of \$50.00. These kits include a brass ring for soil coring (1), a graduated cylinder (2), and a CoCoRaHS scale (3).



## Significant Weather Reports









### Reporting Daily Observations



COCORaHS Observer

Precipitation
Report
MN-CV-2 (english)
Chaska 0.7 ESE

Observation Date

2018-03-20

Observation Time

08:00

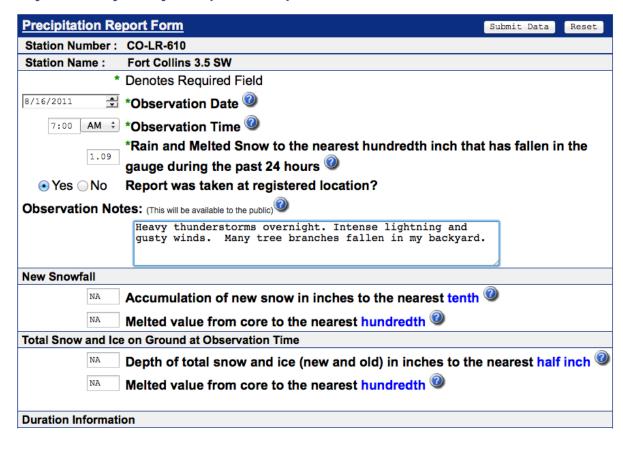
Rain/Melted Snow (in)

0.00

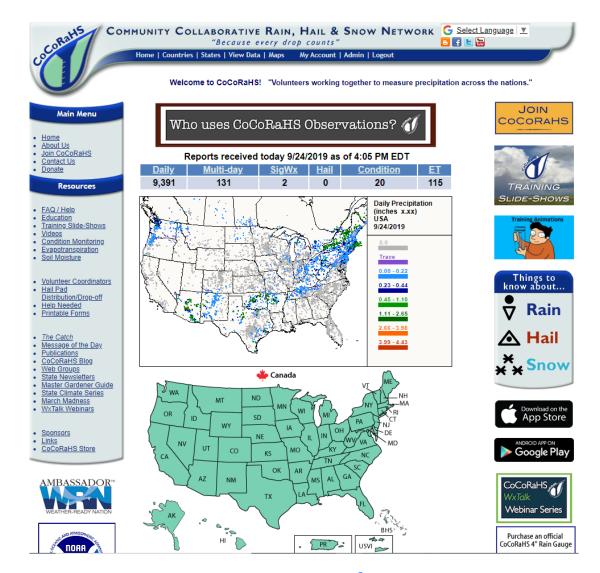
Trace
NA
Click To Specify Snow & Flooding Info

optional notes

My Data Entry: Daily Precipitation Report Form

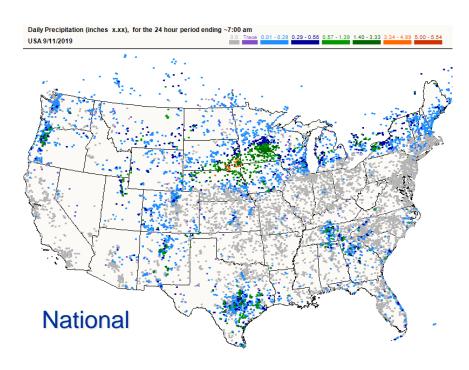


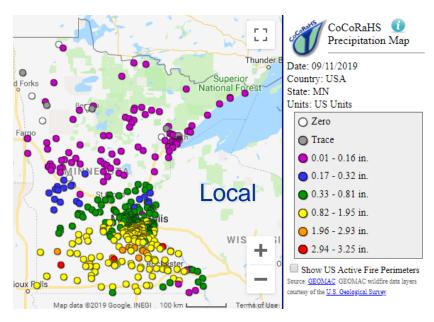
### CoCoRaHS Website



www.cocorahs.org

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Station</u> <u>Number</u>	Station Name	Total Precip in. ▲	New Snow in. 禁 ()	Total Snow in.	<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>
9/11/2019	8:00 AM	MN-GH-1	Red Wing 4.4 SE	3.25	NA   NA	NA   NA	MN	Goodhue
9/11/2019	7:00 AM	MN-NC-9	Kasota 4.0 SW	3.05	NA   NA	NA   NA	MN	Nicollet
9/11/2019	7:00 AM	MN-MY-5	Tracy 7.8 SSW	3.00	NA   NA	NA   NA	MN	Murray
9/11/2019	7:00 AM	MN-BU-11	Mankato 2.9 WSW	2.67	NA   NA	NA   NA	MN	Blue Earth
9/11/2019	7:00 AM	MN-CV-35	Carver 1.1 NW	2.64	NA   NA	NA   NA	MN	Carver
9/11/2019	1:30 PM	MN-GH-30	Goodhue 0.2 S	2.56	NA   NA	NA   NA	MN	Goodhue
9/11/2019	7:00 AM	MN-LS-13	New Prague 1.0 S	2.47	NA   NA	NA   NA	MN	Le Sueur

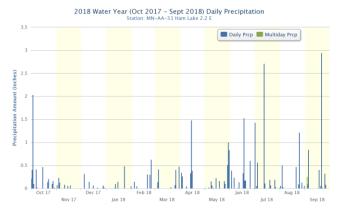


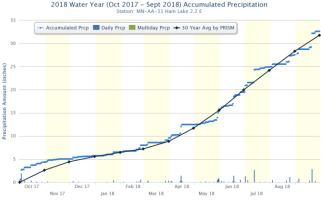


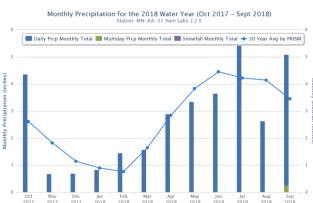
Observations are immediately available in maps and tables at:

CoCoRaHS.org

## CoCoRaHS data are <u>permanently archived</u> and available in a variety of summary reports









Download the Minnesota 2018 water year summary report as an Excel file with station totals

Station Number	Station Name	Days Covered By All Reports	Total Pcpn	Daily Reports	Multiday Reports	Display Optior	ıs
Aitkin							
MN-AT-1	McGrath 2.8 SSE	198	28.50"	19	12	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AT-2	Hill City 0.9 N	35	28.53"	35	0	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AT-4	McGregor 7.3 N	364	36.80"	361	1	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AT-5	Tamarack 1.4 SW	364	29.79"	360	2	HTML Charts	Excel
Anoka							
MN-AA-4	Saint Francis 4.0 E	196	26.73"	184	6	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-5	East Bethel 3.1 NE	185	24.78"	185	0	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-6	Blaine 2.4 W	35	19.89"	35	0	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-13	Coon Rapids 1.4 ESE	214	25.60"	150	11	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-14	Andover 3.0 SSE	47	4.16"	27	6	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-15	Lino Lakes 2.5 SW	107	15.66"	28	5	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-16	East Bethel 1.1 NNW	203	18.40"	155	4	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-18	Andover 2.1 NNW	2	2.94"	2	0	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-19	Coon Rapids 3.2 WNW	31	4.48"	28	1	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-20	Blaine 0.4 S	198	26.41"	159	11	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-21	Ham Lake 1.2 NW	195	19.50"	145	5	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-31	Ham Lake 2.2 E	363	32.65"	360	1	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-33	Fridley 1.8 SE	0	0.0"	0	0	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-36	Ramsey 1.9 E	183	20.03"	128	9	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-39	Fridley 1.8 ESE	31	5.88"	23	2	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-52	Blaine 1.5 N	1	0.15"	1	0	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-54	Anoka 1.3 SSE	361	30.47"	287	21	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-56	Blaine 2.2 NNW	324	28.93"	283	13	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-61	Coon Rapids 1.7 WNW	13	3.95"	13	0	HTML Charts	Excel
MN-AA-66	Anoka 1.6 NW	46	20.87"	46	0	HTML Charts	Excel

Water Year Summary
October 1st thru September 3oth

## Examples of CoCoRaHS data users

National Weather Service
Other Meteorologists
Hydrologists
Emergency Managers
City Utilities

-Water supply

-Water conservation

Storm water

Insurance adjusters
USDA—Crop production
Engineers
Scientists studying storms
Mosquito control
Farm Service Agency
Ranchers and Farmers
Outdoor & Recreation

Teachers and Students
Geoscience education tool
Taking measurements
Analyzing data
Organizing results
Conducting research
Helping the community







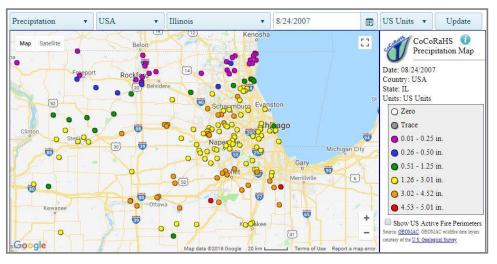


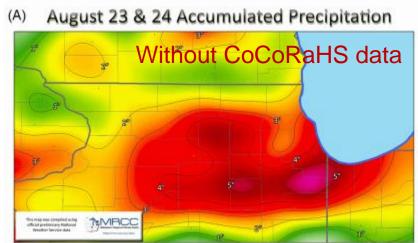


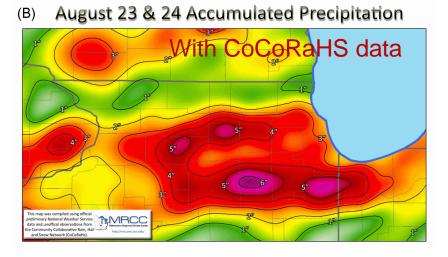


## CoCoRaHS helps provide a finer resolution of data by supplementing other networks (like COOP).

"It's like increasing the number of pixels on your digital camera. You get a much clearer picture!"

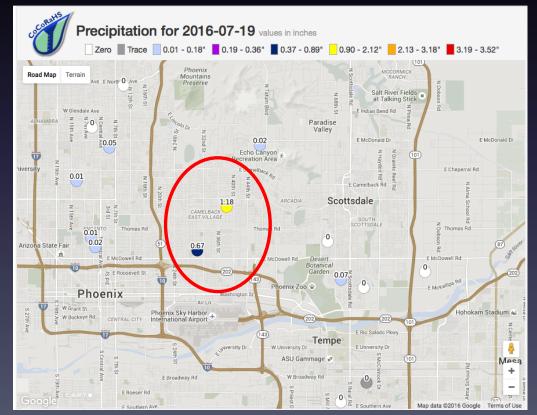












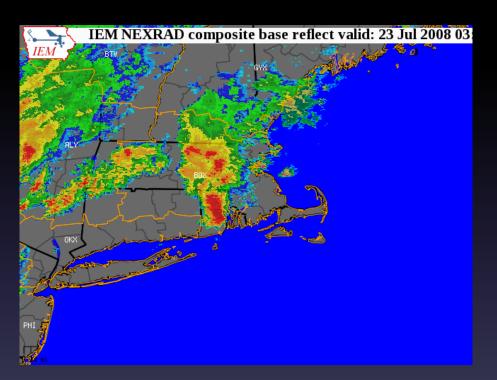
Phoenix Microburst July 18,2016

## Significant Weather Reports



Advanced warning to the National Weather Service regarding potential flash flooding

Sends and alarm to National Weather Service workstation



Significant Weather Repo	ort			
Station Number:	RI-WS-	-1		
Station Name:	ation Name: Hope Valley 3.7 S			
Date:	te: 7/23/2008 3:15 PM			
Submitted	7/23/2008 3:23 PM			
Notes:				
Taken at Registered Location	on: True			
Precip Duration Minutes:	15			
New Precip Amount:	1.00			
Total Precip Amount:	NA			
New Snow Depth:	NA			
Total Snow Depth:	NA			
Flooding:	No			

#### Wednesday at 3:15pm. Rush hour is coming...

July 23, 2008 – A CoCoRaHS observer in Hope Valley, RI provided an intense rainfall report which led to the issuance of a timely Flash Flood Warning. Life threatening urban flooding was reported in Warwick and Providence at the start of the evening rush hour, where several cars were stranded in more than 2 feet of water, requiring people to be rescued. "Lead time would have been much less without the CoCoRaHS report." - Joe Dellicarpini, NWS Taunton, Massachusetts

#### Examples

## <u>Condition Reports</u> provide valuable data for drought decision makers



#### Carencro 3.9 ENE

Station Number	LA-LY-7
Report	Ground is cracking; daily watering required for all pot plants and many shrubs, flowers, etc. Grass is beginning to turn brown in spots.
Condition	Moderately Dry
Date	Sat Sep 14 2019
Summary Data	CoCoRaHS summary data by week for this station.

#### Examples



- NHC issuing advisories for the Atlantic on Hurricane Humberto and Hurricane Jerry NHC issuing advisories for the Eastern Pacific on TS Kiko, TS Mario and TS Lorena
- . WPC is issuing advisories on Imelda
- · Key Messages regarding Hurricane Humberto
- Key Messages regarding Hurricane Jerry
- Key Messages regarding Tropical Storm Lorena
- 4 hurricanes in 6 weeks? It happened to one state in 2004. Lessons learned then are valuable reminders today
- . Video: What You Should...and Should Not...Do with the NHC Forecast Cone ( download available here )



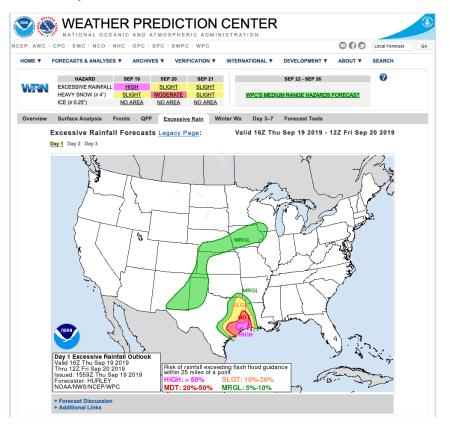
Last update Th



"CoCoRaHS observations play a vital role in the National Hurricane Center's efforts to document tropical cyclone rainfall and impacts in the United States. In at least one case, these observations have led to a new state tropical cyclone rainfall record."

> **Daniel Brown** Senior Hurricane Specialist/Warning Coordination Meteorologist NOAA/NWS/National Hurricane Center

#### **Examples**



"CoCoRaHS data is invaluable to the forecast process. For example, forecasters at the WPC use CoCoRaHS data to understand what happened between the standard observation sites, which is critical for verify daily forecasts. Further the data are used to identify local extremes in major events, such as hurricanes and blizzards. Notable extremes are reported to key partners, the media, and the public. We are grateful for the community effort to measure precipitation."

David Novak
Director
NOAA/NWS/ Weather Prediction
Center

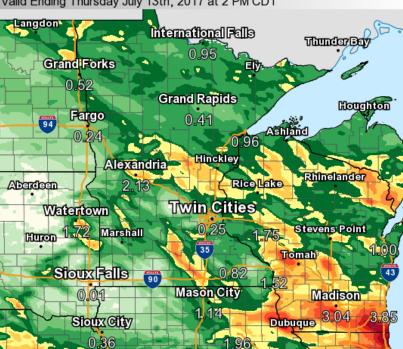
#### CoCoRaHS Precipitation and Snowfall Reports Make a Difference!



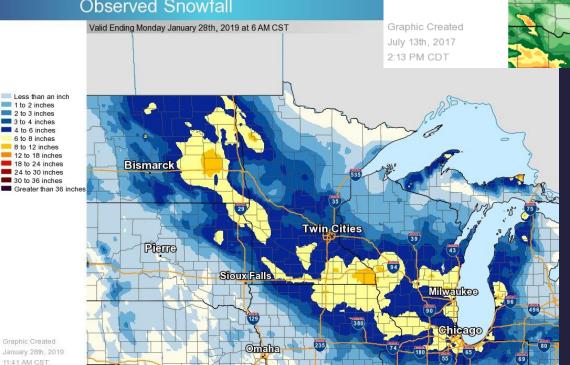
#### Observed Precipitation Valid Ending Thursday July 13th, 2017 at 2 PM CDT













## CoCoRaHS Reports Significantly Increase the Amount of Available Data

Imagine the difference in maps, models, and the climate record without them!

HIGHEST RAINFALL TOT	ALS FROM PA	AST	48 HOUR	RS.		
Rainfall measurements o	f 2.50 incl	nes	or grea	ate	r from	the past
48 hours are listed bel	ow. Thank	you	to our	VO.	lunteer	COOP and
CoCoRaHS observers for	the rainfal	ll r	eports.			
Location Hancock 4ENE Morris 1 SSE Chokio 1NNW Morris (AG Exp Frm) Lake Lillian 5SE Donnelly 2WNW Lucan Paynesville AP Cosmos 1E Morris 4SW New London 6WSW Clontarf Pennock 6NNE Benson Cobden Melrose St. Martin 1NW New Ulm Hoffman Alexandria 1ENE	Amour	nt	Time,	/Dat	te	Provider
Hancock 4ENE	5.55	in	0700	MA	07/20	COCORAHS
Morris 1 SSE	4.66	in	0700	MA	07/20	COCORAHS
Chokio 1NNW	4.56	in	0700	MA	07/20	COCORAHS
Morris (AG Exp Frm)	4.28	in	0800	AM	07/20	COOP
Lake Lillian 5SE	4.12	in	0730	MA	07/20	COCORAHS
Donnelly 2WNW	3.79	in	0700	MA	07/20	COCORAHS
Lucan	3.35	in	0753	MA	07/20	COCORAHS
Paynesville AP	3.19	in	0655	AM	07/20	AWOS
Cosmos 1E	3.17	in	0930	MA	07/20	GOES
Morris 4SW	3.09	in	0924	MA	07/20	CWOP
New London 6WSW	3.05	in	0700	AM	07/20	COCORAHS
Clontarf	3.03	in	0845	AM	07/20	GOES
Pennock 6NNE	3.01	in	0700	MA	07/20	COCORAHS
Benson	2.89	in	0800	MA	07/20	COOP
Cobden	2.80	in	0845	MA	07/20	GOES
Melrose	2.77	in	0700	AM	07/20	COOP
St. Martin 1NW	2.74	in	0900	MA	07/20	HADS
New Ulm	2.68	in	0500	MA	07/20	COCORAHS
Hoffman	2.63	in	0845	AM	07/20	GOES
Alexandria 1ENE	2.54	in	0700	AM	07/20	COCORAHS
Benson	2.54	in	0930	MA	07/20	GOES
Danube 2WNW	2.51	in	0700	MA	07/20	COCORAHS
Sveadahl 5NNW	2.50	in	0655	MA	07/20	COCORAHS





### Become An Observer!

COCORAHS CO	MMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & "Because every drop counts	
S	Home   Countries   States   View Data   Maps	Admin   Logout
	Become a CoCoRaHS Observer	
Main Menu	Observer Information	Postal Address
Home     About Us	First Name Last Name	Address
Join CoCoRaHS     Contact Us     Donate	Home Phone	State Alabama ▼ County Select County ▼
Resources	Day Phone Email	City Zip
FAQ / Help     Education	Privacy Policy  Daily Internet Access:  Yes No	
Training Slide-Shows     Videos	Station Location Information	
Condition Monitoring     Evapotranspiration	Station Information:	Station Address
Soil Moisture	Location Description: (example: Gauge located at the 3rd house South of Fifth Ave on	Same as Postal Address Address
Volunteer Coordinators     Hail Pad     Distribution/Drop-off	Vine.)	State Alabama 🔻
Help Needed     Printable Forms	Location Coordinates: (if available) in decimal degrees.	County Select County ▼ City
The Catch     Message of the Day     Publications     CoCoRaHS Blog	Latitude (40.5993) : Longitude (105.1152) :	Zip

CoCoRaHS.org



### We're Cuckoo For CoCoRaHS!

For more information visit: cocorahs.org

Or contact: <a href="mailto:michelle.margraf@noaa.gov">michelle.margraf@noaa.gov</a>
National Weather Service – Twin Cities

