

Florida CoCoRaHS

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

*Volunteers working together
to measure precipitation.*

Oil and Hurricanes

Even now, I can hear some of you groan as you read the topic line. For most of us, it's been an ongoing story that's been replayed on our local news channels since Day 1. Some of our observers living on the East Coast may never see a direct impact, while others have already seen the oil coat the sands of their local beaches.

I know some people are tired of hearing about the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. But as oil continues to flow in the Gulf of Mexico, so do the questions about how hurricanes will interact with the oil spill.

NOAA and the National Hurricane Center have put together a nice fact sheet to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the interactions between hurricanes and the oil spill. You can review the fact sheet here:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/hurricanes_oil_factsheet.pdf

Going on Vacation?

Your rain gauge will be waiting for you when you get back! After you've had time to unpack, unwind, and wistfully wish for a vacation from your vacation, take a moment to look at your gauge. If you have any rain in your gauge, please complete a "Multi-Day Accumulation Form." The first date will be the day you left, the second date will be the day you returned and checked your gauge.

Quick Stats

| | |
|--------|---|
| 1001 | # of registered FL observers |
| 476 | # of active FL observers |
| 11,638 | # of reports submitted by FL observers during 6/10 |
| 6/4/10 | Date with the greatest # of FL reports submitted during 6/10 (414 reports) |
| 5.20" | Highest reported daily rainfall from FL CoCoRaHS observers during 6/10 (FL-PS-24 in Zephyrhills on 6/4) |



Because every drop counts!



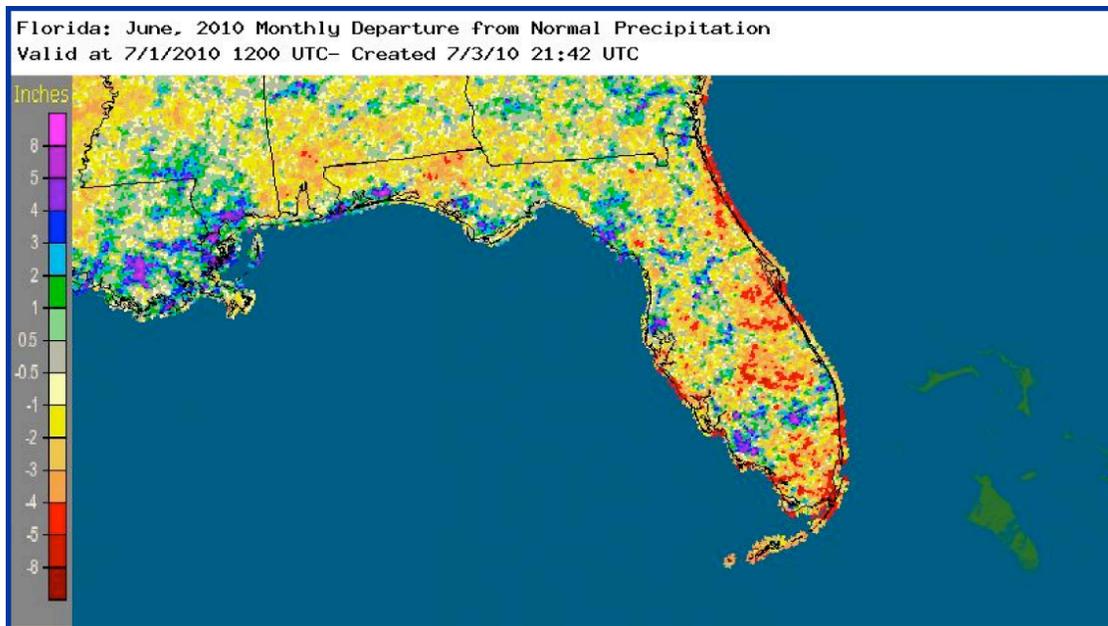
June Rains

Monthly rainfall in June was below normal in most areas around the state. Orlando's 3.23 inches was more than four inches below normal (Table 1). However, localized heavy rain, which is typical of summertime convection in the state, provided above normal monthly totals in scattered areas across Florida (Figure 1). There were no daily rainfall records observed during June.

Table 1. June precipitation totals and departure from normal (inches) for selected cities.

| Station | Total Rainfall | Departure from Normal |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Pensacola | 7.55 | 1.16 |
| Tallahassee | 7.99 | 1.07 |
| Jacksonville | 3.73 | -1.64 |
| Orlando | 3.23 | -4.12 |
| Tampa | 4.63 | -0.87 |
| Miami | 7.20 | -1.34 |
| Key West | 2.08 | -2.49 |

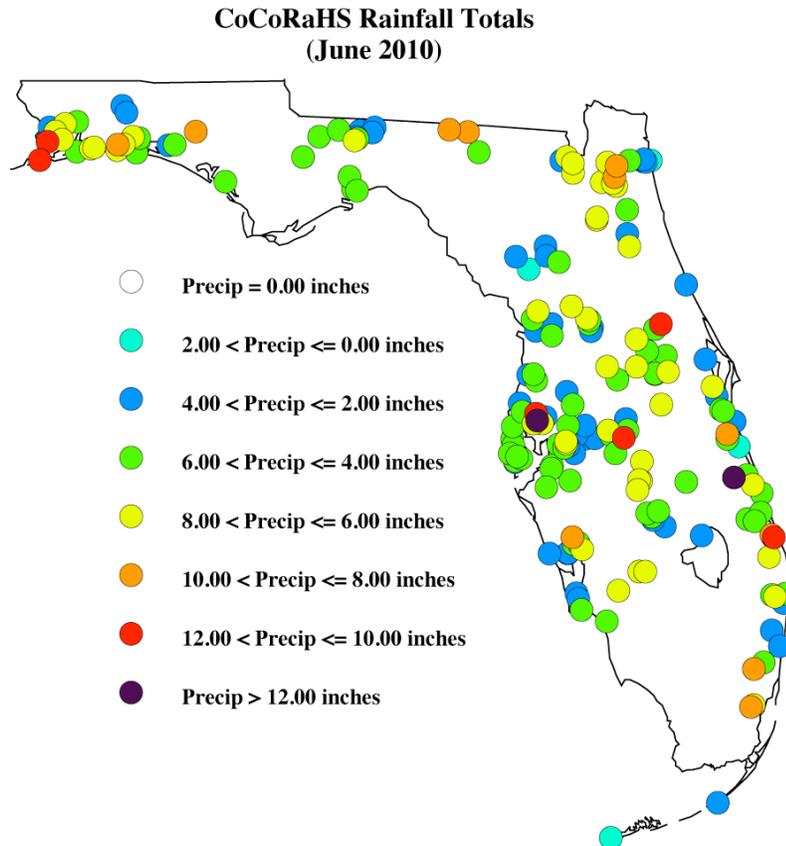
Figure 1. A graphical depiction of the monthly rainfall departure from the normal (inches) for June is given in the figure below (courtesy of NOAA, NWS).





June CoCoRaHS Totals

Here are the rainfall totals for June from some select CoCoRaHS stations across the state.



Current State of the Drought

At the beginning of June, the state was clear of any drought conditions. However, drier than normal conditions have caused the National Drought Monitor to finally add abnormally dry conditions to parts of Northwest Florida. Most of Holmes, Washington and Jackson counties are listed as abnormally dry, while only the northern portions of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties are showing similar dry conditions. The weather pattern that brought 100°F temperatures to parts of the state in June contributed to the dryness we now see. Hopefully, we will not see a repeat of that pattern during July, and the typical summer rains, and perhaps a tropical system, will help to improve conditions.



It's Not The Heat, It's The Humidity

No matter how many times you hear this cliché, it still rings true. The combination of our summertime maximum temperatures and the humidity can prove to be deadly. Humidity is the measure of how much water vapor is present in the air, and these percentages can be very high during the summer months. In order for our bodies to keep cool, we sweat to get rid of the excess body heat. However, when humidity values are high and combined with high temperatures, it makes our bodies think it's hotter than it actually is. This is called the heat index.

The National Weather Service will issue heat advisories and warnings when the combination of heat and humidity causes the heat index to reach the extreme caution level.

| Heat Index Level | Heat Index Values | With Prolonged Exposure |
|------------------|-------------------|---|
| Caution | 80° - 90°F | Fatigue |
| Extreme Caution | 90° - 105°F | Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion possible |
| Danger | 105° - 125°F | Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion likely |
| Extreme Danger | 125°F+ | Heat stroke or sunstroke highly likely |

You can find out about heat safety at the following link:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/heat/index.shtml>



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Have Questions?

If at any time you have questions about CoCoRaHS, reading your rain gauge, or finding a location to setup your rain gauge, please feel to contact a CoCoRaHS Coordinator. We are lucky enough to have regional support from National Weather Service offices across the state, as well as county/local help from several CoCoRaHS volunteers. You can find all of the contact information for the CoCoRaHS Coordinators at:

http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=coord_FL

Take care,
Melissa