

Florida CoCoRaHS

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

*Volunteers working together
to measure precipitation.*

Are You Prepared?

On June 1st we start the 2010 Hurricane Season. Last year, Tropical Storm Claudette made landfall near Fort Walton Beach in the early morning hours of August 17th, leaving Florida, once again, fairly unscathed from tropical cyclone activity for the second year in a row. With that being said, the threat is real every year between June and November, and now is the time to prepare. The Florida Division of Emergency Management has created a website that will create a checklist and provide information based on your needs:

Create a Hurricane Plan for:

Your Family: <http://www.floridadisaster.org/family/>

Your Business: <http://www.floridadisaster.org/business/>

You can find the contact information for your County Emergency Management Office here:

http://www.floridadisaster.org/County_EM/county_list.htm

And you can also take part in Hurricane Preparedness Week, from May 23rd-29th, hosted by NOAA and the National Hurricane Center: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml>

In the past, the rain gauges have held up fairly well against tropical storms during the last two hurricane seasons, however, if you are worried it could be damaged or lost should a hurricane threaten your area- please do so.

Remember - Your safety is our number one concern so please take heed when officials issue evacuations for your area. Rain gauges can be replaced but you cannot.

Quick Stats

982 # of registered FL observers

471 # of active FL observers

11,304 # of reports submitted by FL observers during 9/09

4/20/10 Date with the greatest # of FL reports submitted during 4/10 (416 reports)

4.55" Highest reported daily rainfall from FL CoCoRaHS observers during 4/10 (FL-HB-57 on 4/26)



Because every drop counts!



April Rains

Rainfall totals for April were above normal at most central and southern stations, while totals were below normal across the Panhandle, Big Bend, north Florida and the lower Keys (Table 1). Several daily rainfall records were broken during the month (Table 2). Of note, the daily rainfall (2.15") at Miami on the 12th broke a record in existence since 1900.

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

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	2.73	-1.16
Tallahassee	3.58	-0.01
Jacksonville	1.01	-2.13
Orlando	4.73	2.31
Tampa	3.47	1.67
Miami	8.95	5.59
Key West	0.62	-1.44

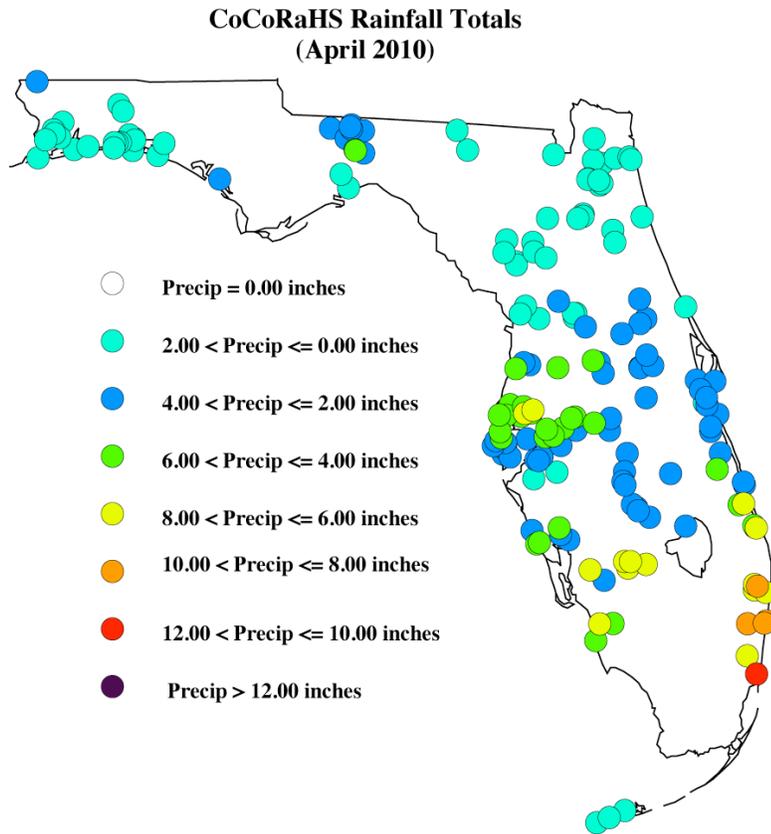
Table 2. Daily rainfall records (inches) set during April (compiled from NWS records).

Date	Station	Amount	Previous Record
11	Naples	1.52	0.91 in 1957
12	Miami	2.15	2.00 in 1900
18	Naples	0.81	0.79 in 1989
18	Orlando	1.52	1.33 in 1956
25	Vero Beach	1.80	1.79 in 1956
26	Melbourne	1.54	1.40 in 1968



April CoCoRaHS Totals

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



Current State of the Drought

The drier conditions in April that plagued parts of northwestern Florida gave way to some needed rain across the area and the rest of the state the first week of May. On April 27th, the National Drought Monitor showed abnormally dry conditions in most of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties, but by May 4th, all mentions of dryness had been removed from the state.

Remember: 0.00" is a valid value and it's just as important to know where/when it hasn't rained as where/when it has. The National Drought Monitor, as well as some of the state's water management districts, use your observations to help track dry conditions across Florida.



Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Over the last few days, I've received quite a few emails from concerned observers about the oil spill and it's possible impacts on both the coastline and climate of Florida. Questions have ranged from:

- Will the oil spill impact Florida beaches along the Gulf of Mexico and possibly the Atlantic?
- Will the oil spill cause problems with the evaporation over the Gulf enough to cause a drought?
- Could the oil slick cause a shift in our summertime precipitation?
- How would a tropical storm/hurricane impact the oil spill?

There are several climatologists across the United States looking into the possible climate impacts of the spill. In addition, oceanographers are worried that the oil spill could reach the Gulf Loop Current, a clockwise swirl of warm water that sets up during the spring and summer. If the oil reaches the current, it could push the spill further south and toward the Keys and Atlantic.

As we work toward these answers, higher education institutions across Florida have come together and formed the Oil Spill Academic Task Force (OSATF), which will work in conjunction with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and other state and federal agencies.

For more information on the task force and its initiatives, please visit: <http://oilspill.fsu.edu>

The website provides links to the areas of expertise represented by all universities and agencies involved, along with links to the latest information regarding the oil spill. The site will be updated as more information becomes available.



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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