

Florida CoCoRaHS

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

*Volunteers working together
to measure precipitation.*

Are You Prepared?

On June 1st we started 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

Our CoCoRaHS 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 feel free to bring it indoors.

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

991	# of registered FL observers
478	# of active FL observers
11,835	# of reports submitted by FL observers during 5/10
5/17/10	Date with the greatest # of FL reports submitted during 5/10 (414 reports)
7.51"	Highest reported daily rainfall from FL CoCoRaHS observers during 5/10 (FL-OK-19 on 5/4)



Because every drop counts!



May Rains

Rainfall totals for May were below normal at most of the stations (Table 1). An exception is Pensacola where the monthly total of 7.98 inches was more than three and one half inches above normal. Daily rainfall records set during May are in Table 2. The 2.69 inches recorded at Pensacola on the 16th exceeded a record in existence since 1945.

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

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	7.98	3.58
Tallahassee	2.95	-2.00
Jacksonville	1.65	-1.83
Orlando	3.00	-0.74
Tampa	1.84	-1.01
Miami	3.42	-2.10
Key West	0.49	-2.99

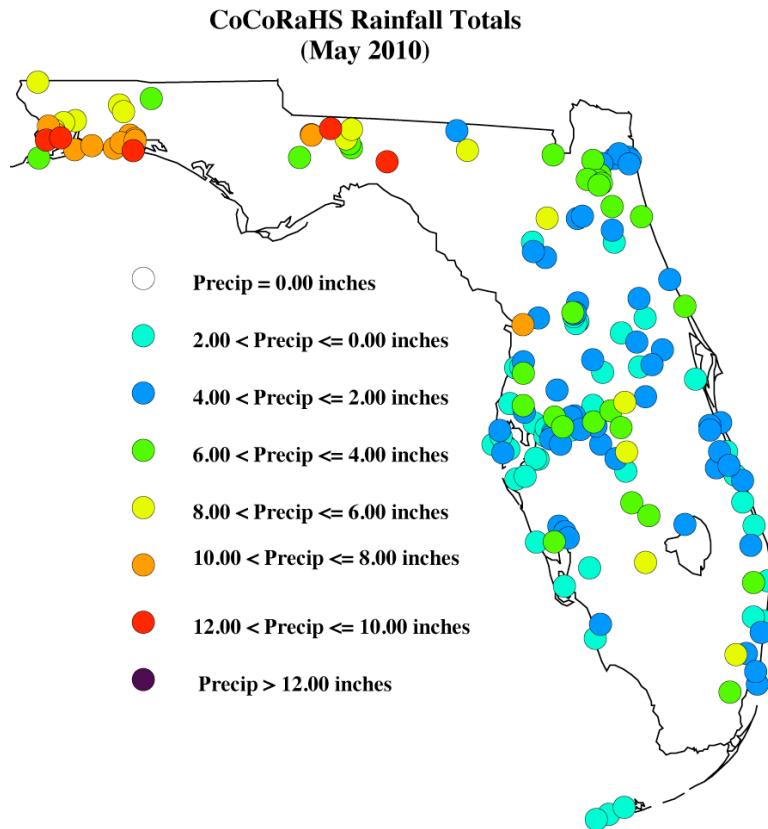
Table 2. Daily rainfall records (inches) set during May (compiled from NWS records).

Date	Station	Amount	Previous Record
4	Apalachicola	2.52	0.88 in 1968
5	Vero Beach	2.11	1.69 in 1968
16	Pensacola	2.69	2.48 in 1945
17	Daytona Beach	1.59	0.65 in 1976



May CoCoRaHS Totals

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



Current State of the Drought

Even though rainfall totals were below normal over most of the state, the National Drought Monitor does not indicate that any part of the state is in a drought or experiencing abnormally dry conditions at this time.

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.



When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Do you know about the 30-30 rule? There seems to be a few of you that are shaking your head, so I'll explain...

“When you see lightning, count the seconds until you hear the thunder. Go immediately to a safer place if this time is 30 seconds or less. As the storm passes, wait 30 minutes or more after hearing the last clap of thunder before you leave your shelter.”

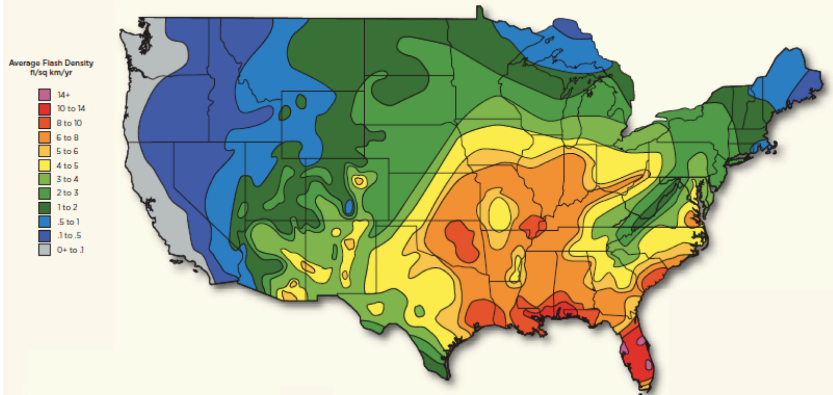
Now that we've entered the unofficial start to summer, the kids are out of school and we'll be taking trips to the beach, playing golf, going to Disney©, or just grilling out. This means we'll be more likely to be outdoors when a thunderstorm hits and more susceptible to being struck by lightning.

Florida is known as the 'Lightning Capital' of the United States, and between 1959-2008, 455 people died in Florida due to lightning. Texas is ranked #2 with 205 deaths. The National Weather Service and NOAA are

sponsoring Lightning Safety Week from June 20-26, 2010. You can find out about indoor and outdoor safety, medical facts, and teacher toolkits and kids pages about lightning at the following link:

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>

Vaisala's National Lightning Detection Network (NLDN)
Cloud-to-Ground Lightning Incidence in the Continental U.S. (1997 - 2007)



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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