

South Carolina CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Gazette

2

Observer
Recognition and
the CoCoRaHS
Cup

3

Abnormally
Wet Winter
and Spring 2020

4

Rainfall Reports
from Hurricane
Isaias (August)

5

Rainfall Reports
from Hurricane
Sally
(September)

6

Winter
Weather
Reporting

Welcome to the second edition of the 'South Carolina CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Gazette.'

To say 2020 has been a trying year would be a bit of an understatement. This year, we dealt with flooding (again!), tornadoes, and tropical cyclones. However, it did not deter our observers from submitting their daily precipitation reports.

This newsletter will discuss some of the top precipitation-related stories during 2020 and highlight the impact of your observations.

Whether you have been with us for ten years or ten days, know that your data has been instrumental in monitoring drought and flooding across the Palmetto State.

Sincerely,
Melissa Griffin
South Carolina CoCoRaHS State
Coordinator

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at GriffinM@dnr.sc.gov or 803-734-9091.

Observer Recognition



As a small token of our gratitude, Certificates of Appreciation were mailed in November to 20 observers who celebrated ten years of service (starting in 2010), and the 44 observers that started reporting in 2015. If you have not received your certificate, please let me know..



Since 2006, the CoCoRaHS program has run an annual campaign during March to recruit additional citizen observers to measure precipitation across the United States. In 2018 and 2019, South Carolina won the traditional count portion of the friendly competition. However, this year, Minnesota recruited the highest number of new observers, and the CoCoRaHS Cup found a new home. There is always next year!

State of South Carolina Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, the volunteers of the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Program serve as the backbone of the state and nation's weather and climate monitoring network through their accurate collection of temperature and precipitation which are invaluable in learning more about the weather that impacts the citizens of the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network participants provide supplemental data on precipitation across the state to inform decision-makers of the variability in rainfall for tracking flooding and drought conditions that impact South Carolina's water resources; and

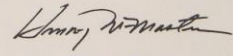
WHEREAS, the National Weather Service SKYWARN® spotters volunteer their time to observe severe weather across the state and provide timely and critical weather information to state and federal agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 1-7, 2020, as

SOUTH CAROLINA CITIZEN WEATHER OBSERVER WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the significance of our weather observers' volunteer services and celebrate their effort in contributing data that stands as the cornerstone of our state and nation's weather history.




HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Governor's Office proclaimed March 1 – 7, 2020, as the first-ever South Carolina Citizen Weather Observer Week. The week celebrated and recognized the volunteer efforts of South Carolina's National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Observers (COOP), SKYWARN Spotters, and those who are a part of the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS).

We want to thank the [Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund](#) for supporting the South Carolina CoCoRaHS program over the last few years. Through their generous donations, we have provided rain gauges to schools, educational centers and other observers across the state.



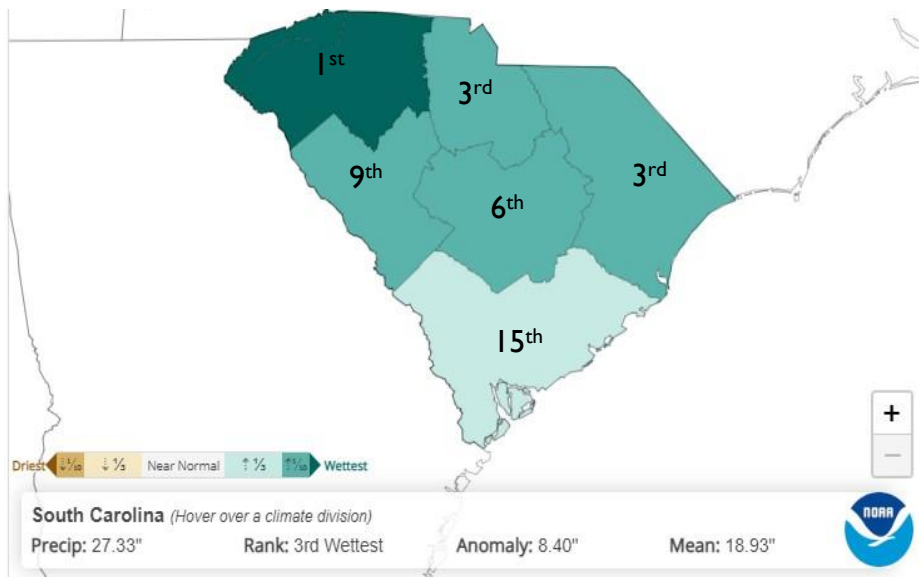
WINTER AND SPRING RAINFALL

The 2019 Fall Flash Drought seems like a distant memory at this point, but heading into November 2019, most of the state was dealing with drought impacts due to a lack of rainfall and abnormally high temperatures.

But changed in winter, as the upper-level pattern shifted, and storm systems tracked over the area, causing above-normal precipitation through the end of Spring. During January and February, the excessive rainfall led to flooding on many rivers in the Midlands and Pee Dee region. From January - March, the five-month period was the wettest since 1895 in the Upstate and the 3rd wettest in the Pee Dee.

Statewide, it was the 3rd wettest start to a year, and the rain continued to fall throughout the year. By December, a few stations were on track to report their wettest year on record.

Divisional Precipitation Rank (of 126 years) January – May 2020



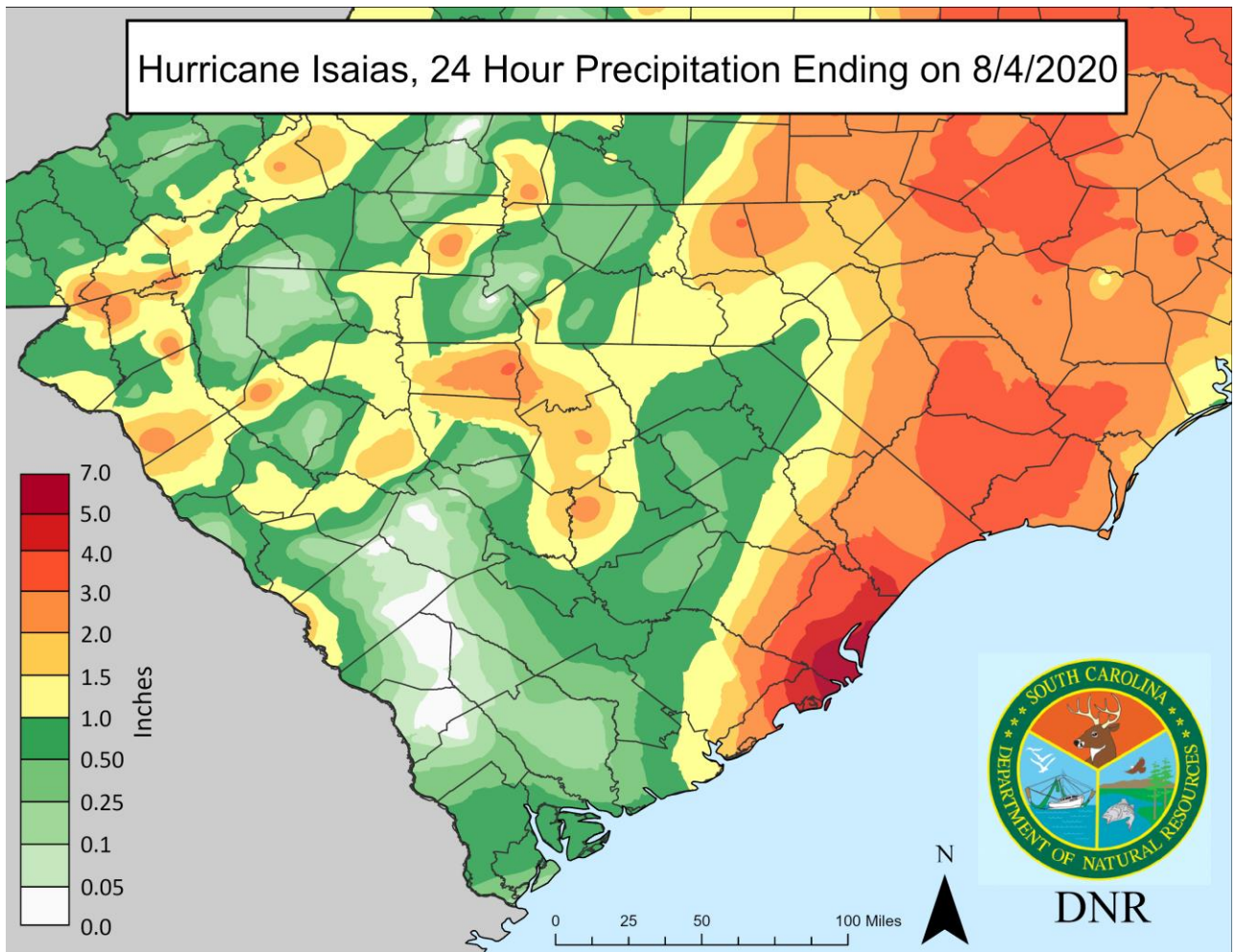
Select Rainfall Totals (January – May 2020)

Station	Station Type	Rainfall Total (in)
Jocassee 8 WNW	NWS	52.16
Caesars Head	NWS	48.79
Taylors 6.1 NNW	CoCoRaHS	48.13
Travelers Rest 8.9 N	CoCoRaHS	46.97
Florence 5.1 W	CoCoRaHS	36.04
Fort Mill 4.6 NNE	CoCoRaHS	35.96
North 5 NE	NWS	33.95
Hartsville 5.4 WSW	CoCoRaHS	32.26
Kingstree 7.9 NW	CoCoRaHS	31.64

HURRICAN ISAIAS - AUGUST

The heaviest rainfall from Hurricane Isaias remained offshore, however, portions of Georgetown and Horry counties reported rainfall totals over three inches. The highest reported rainfall was 6.80 inches recorded by a CoCoRaHS observer on Pawleys Island. Some locations broke their daily rainfall records, including the 3.31 inches reported at the National Weather Service (NWS) station in Myrtle Beach. As the storm moved across eastern North Carolina, it produced widespread rain, which resulted in some local rivers to rise to minor flood stage.

Station	Station Type	Rainfall Total (in)
Pawley's Island 2.4 NW	CoCoRaHS	6.80
Georgetown 6.0 S	CoCoRaHS	6.54
Georgetown County Airport	NWS	5.80
Pawley's Island 0.8 WNW	CoCoRaHS	5.53
Georgetown 11.2 SW	CoCoRaHS	5.32
Georgetown 1.0 E	CoCoRaHS	5.31
Murrell's Inlet 2.4 NW	CoCoRaHS	5.25

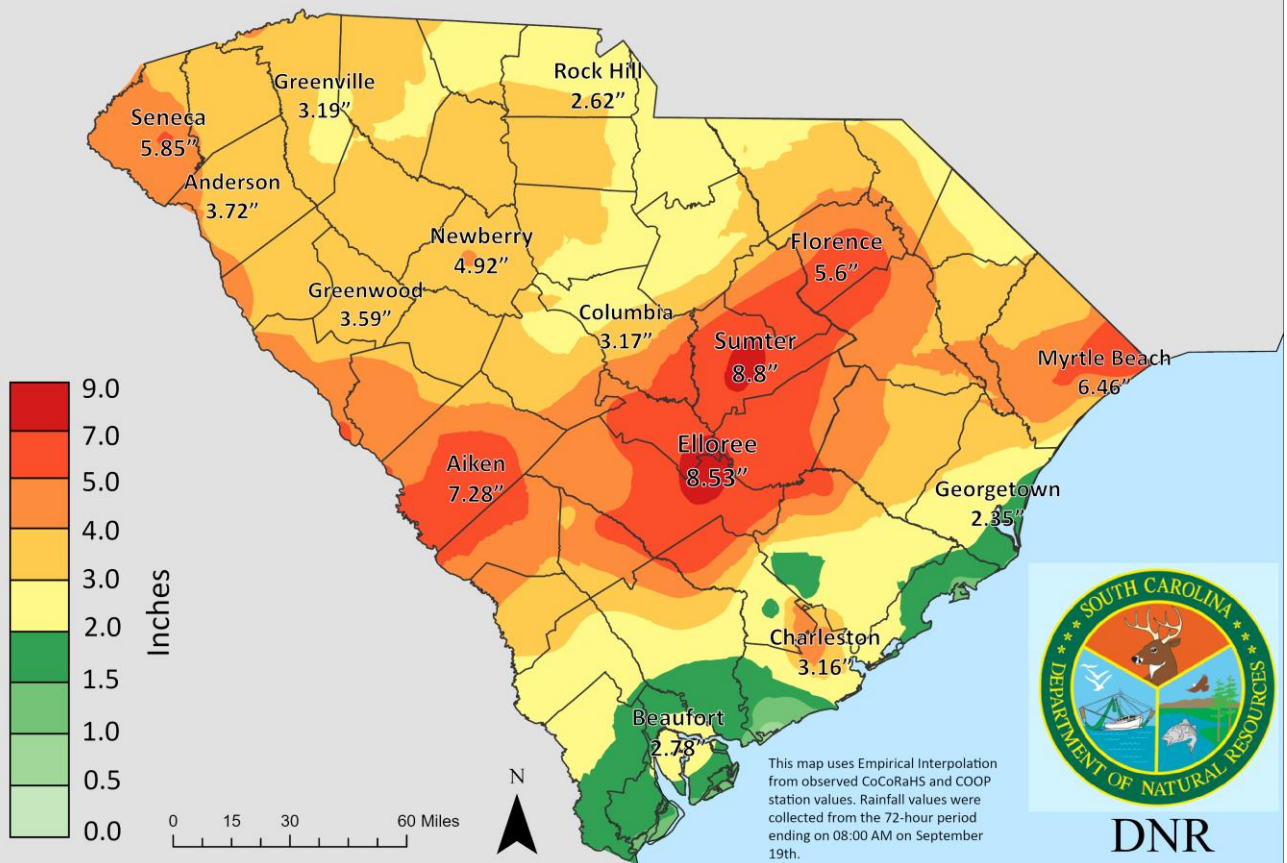


HURRICANE SALLY - SEPTEMBER

The heaviest rain from Tropical Storm Sally was located on the eastern side of the center of circulation. As the center of the storm moved parallel to the Interstate 20 corridor, areas in the Midlands measured the highest rainfall totals. Portions of Orangeburg and Sumter counties recorded up to nine inches of rain, while the rest of the state reported at least two inches. Here are some of the preliminary totals recorded by the National Weather Service stations and CoCoRaHS observers in the areas that received the most rainfall from the storm.

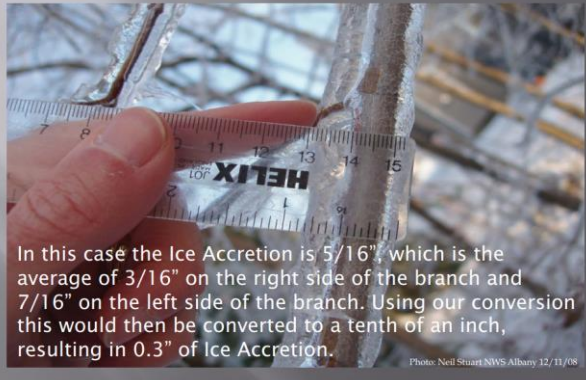
Station	Station Type	Rainfall Total (in)
Sumter 0.2 NE	CoCoRaHS	8.80
Elloree 2.2 WSW	CoCoRaHS	8.53
Longs 1.3 NW	CoCoRaHS	7.92
Aiken 8.6 ESE	CoCoRaHS	7.28
Sumter	NWS	7.18
Darlington	NWS	6.74
Bamberg	NWS	6.01

Hurricane Sally, 3-day Precipitation Ending on 9/19/2020

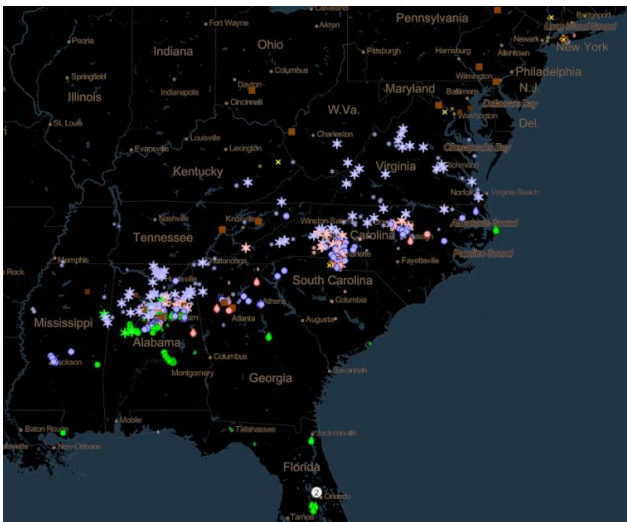


Winter Weather Observing and Reporting

ICE ACCRETION EXAMPLES



As we head into the heart of Winter, take a few moments to read (https://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=training_slideshows) or watch (<https://www.youtube.com/user/cocorahs>) the training materials on snow measuring, measuring snow water equivalent (SWE), and ice accretion. While I know that winter weather is somewhat rare in the state, everyone remembers a few storms.



In addition to noting if you see rain, sleet, or snow in the comments box with your observation, I highly recommend downloading the mPING App on your phone. This easy-to-use tool provides vital information on the type of precipitation falling at your location.

For more information:

<https://mping.nssl.noaa.gov/>

Winter Weather Reporting via Social Media

If you have pictures of snow, freezing rain, sleet, heavy rain, flooding, or storm damage you want to share - please include the date, time, and location information and tag your local NWS Office on Twitter or Facebook.

Twitter: [@NWSGSP](https://twitter.com/NWSGSP) [@NWSColumbia](https://twitter.com/NWSColumbia) [@NWSCharlestonSC](https://twitter.com/NWSCharlestonSC)
[@NWSWilmingtonNC](https://twitter.com/NWSWilmingtonNC)

Due to the variability of precipitation, amounts measured can be different even across short distances. South Carolina CoCoRaHS is always looking for new observers to help understand where it did or did not rain. If you know someone that enjoys the weather, encourage them to sign up to participate in this beneficial citizen science project

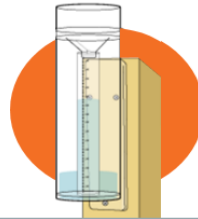
It Only Takes 4 Simple Steps



Register



View Online Training Slideshow



Purchase a Rain Gauge



Record and Report Observations

To all observers, old and new, here's some refresher information on observing!

- **Double-check your report before you hit submit.** Occasionally you may be contacted by someone at CoCoRaHS HQ, a regional coordinator, or myself about a flagged rainfall value. Two of the most common mistakes are entering the observation time as the rainfall total and misplacing the decimal.
- **Report your zeroes.** Even on days when there is nothing in your rain gauge, that 0.00" value is extremely important to many individuals and agencies.
- **Check out the Wx Talk Webinars offered by CoCoRaHS.** Each webinar features a different weather-related topic and allows our observers to interact with the speaker.

Your South Carolina CoCoRaHS Team

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