



CISA

A NOAA RISA TEAM

September 2017

CISA & CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring Newsletter

Dear CoCoRaHS Observer,

This month's newsletter includes:

- A Southeast Regional Climate Update
- Information about the Launch of New Condition Monitoring Tools
- Condition Monitoring Reports Highlight: Hurricane Harvey
- The New Newsletter Authors!

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to us at cisa@sc.edu if you have any other questions or comments.

The CISA Team - Amanda, Ellie, Kirsten, and Kerry

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SE Regional Climate Update

The NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information has released their overview of the [August 2017 Climate Report](#).

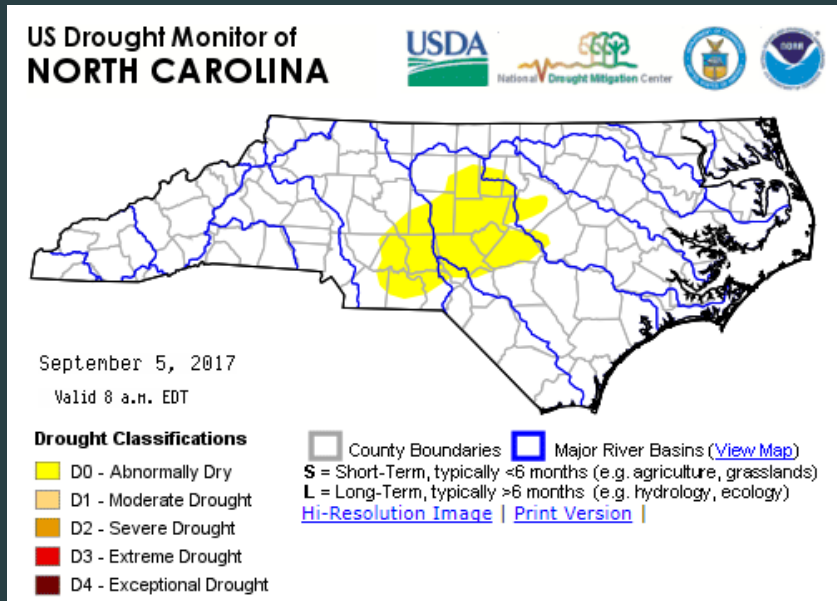
Here are some highlights:

- The national average summer temperature (July-August) for the contiguous U.S. was 72.7°F, 1.3°F above average and the 15th warmest summer in the 123-year period of record.
- The season's precipitation average of 9.19 inches was

0.87 inches above average and the 16th wettest summer on record.

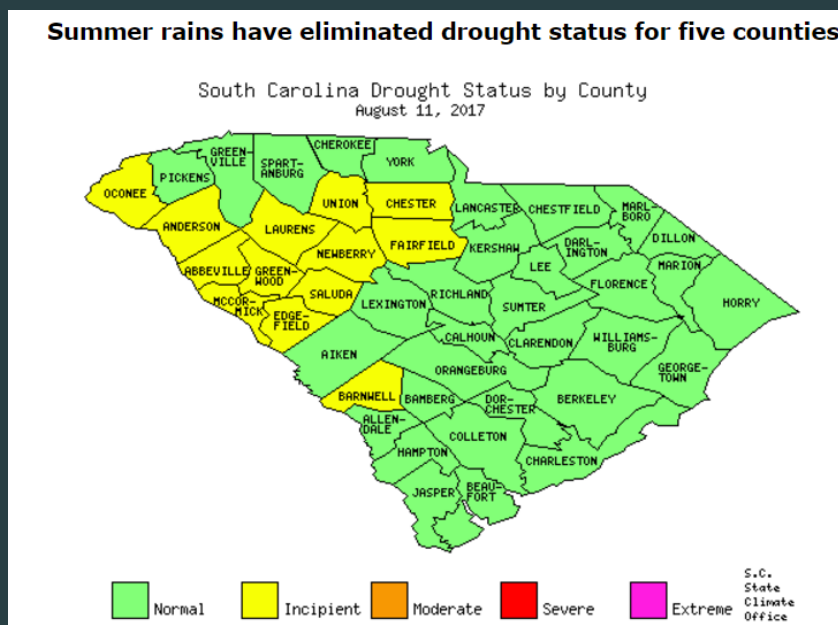
- Since August 1st, the percentage of contiguous United States land area in drought is 11.8%.

The [North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council](#) updated their drought status as of September 5, 2017. Changes include the reduction in the number of counties in a state of incipient drought from 29 to 13. The rest of the state is under normal conditions.



Map released by the North Carolina D.M.A.C. on September 5, 2017.

The [South Carolina Drought Response Committee](#) has not updated their map since August 11, 2017. There are currently 13 counties in the state with an incipient drought status while the rest of the state remains under normal conditions.



Map released by the United States Drought Monitor on August 11, 2017.

It will be interesting to see the results of the rain received by Irma on the drought status in the Carolinas. Be sure to report what

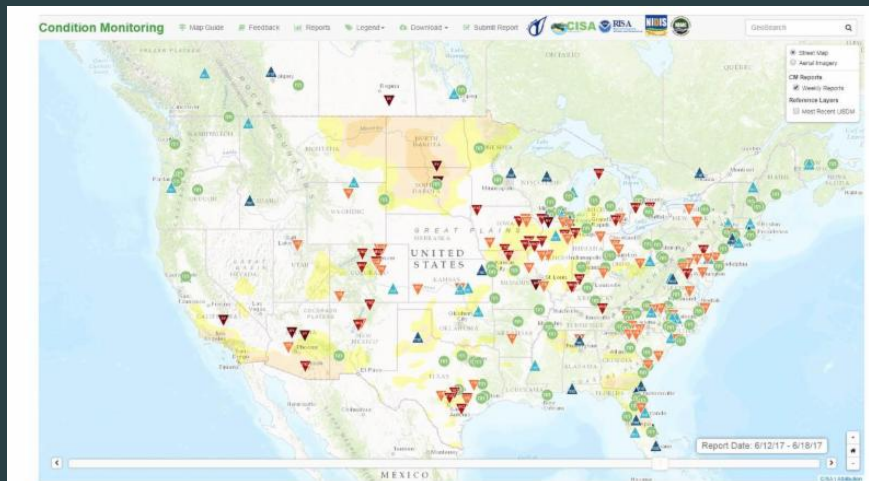
you observed during the Hurricane!

New Condition Monitoring Tools Launched!

We are very excited to announce the launch of three new tools to help volunteers and practitioners visualize and participate in the CoCoRaHS condition monitoring project. On Monday, September 11th, the [National Condition Monitoring Web Map](#), the [Condition Monitoring Summary Data Page](#), and a [Condition Monitoring Training Animation](#) were launched.

The National Condition Monitoring Web Map

The [National Condition Monitoring Web Map](#) came from the pilot project managed by CISA. You might remember the Carolinas Condition Monitoring Web Map. Well now the map shows all of the condition monitoring reports throughout the United States! Interested in what an observer is seeing in Oregon? Go to the web map and click the reports in Oregon to check them out! The web map shows reports on a weekly basis for all observers in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. It also shows the US Drought Monitor map on a weekly basis. This can be especially helpful if you want to see how observers in different areas of the country are reporting on drought conditions.



National Condition Monitoring Map Screen Shot

The Condition Monitoring Summary Data Page

Are you interested in looking at trends or how conditions have changed over time? Now, thanks to the [Condition Monitoring Summary Data Page](#), you can look at and interact with a wide range of graphs that show the data reported by observers. These graphs can be used to visualize one station or you can look at report data by county, state or even country. These summary graphs give a snapshot into the valuable data our observers report every week. They also make it easier for practitioners to use reports when making decisions like the level of drought in an area.

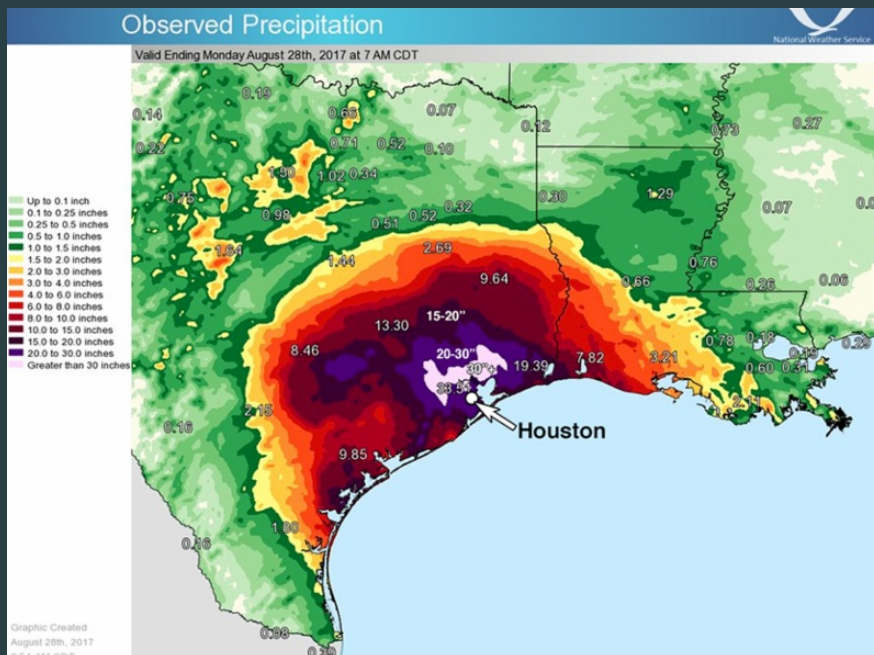
The Condition Monitoring Animation

You may have seen some of CoCoRaHS's fun and educational animations and now, we have a specific [Condition Monitoring Animation](#)! Join the CoCoRaHS hero and his dog on an adventure to learn about condition monitoring. The animation breaks down the process of condition monitoring, taking viewers step by step through determining the scale bar value, selecting reporting categories, writing the condition monitoring description, and submitting the report. The audience learns about who uses condition monitoring reports and what information those decision makers like to see. The animation emphasizes that observers are the experts for what is normal or abnormal in their area and that's why consistent reporting is so important!

We are very excited to share these new tools and we hope you find them interesting and useful, too. Happy Monitoring!

Condition Monitoring Reports Highlight: Hurricane Harvey

Hurricane Harvey made its first landfall on August 26, 2017 in Rockport, Texas as a Category 4 Hurricane. Harvey then proceeded to make landfall twice more before dropping from 30 - 50 inches of rain in Texas. Here are some Condition Monitoring Reports from what CoCoRaHS observers saw before and after Harvey moved through the area:



TX-WA-25 (8/25/17): Beginning of week-Need to increase drip irrigation for produce garden and less to pick....End of week-Hurricane Harvey ushered precip and wind.

TX-BND-55 (8/26/17): IF we get rain from Harvey, this report may be obsolete by the time the Drought Prediction is issued. However, as of this morning, we are at best Mildly Dry and it was very tempting to report Moderately Dry.

TX-TN-124 (8/27/17): A wet week, and continuing rain today, have us very wet with saturated soil here in my neighborhood. Rain bands Sat. and today from Harvey haven't dropped large amounts but I've recorded 3.02 inches of rain the last six days (6.66 inches for Aug so far.) Plants and wildlife are well.

TX-HYS-148 (8/30/17): Hays County received between 5-7 inches of rain from Harvey. This busted the "mini-drought" we were going thru. Grasses have greened up everywhere. Flows in the Blanco have returned to a normal level.

TX-BND-55 (9/2/17): We received comparatively little rain from Harvey. Probably received pretty close to what was forecast for our location. The benefits from what we did receive are diminishing quickly with the sunny warm to hot weather and low humidity. Ground once again is hard, dry and cracking

TX-HYS-133 (9/2/17): Harvey brought some much needed rain. Just the right amount here. Creek in back to its normal level. Plants have greened up. Deer and other animals have been scarce which means there is plenty to eat.

TX-VZ-33 (9/3/17): This has been a bizarre week for weather. With Hurricane Harvey moving north, we were continually forecast to be in a belt that would get 3-5 inches of rain. I got 1/10 of an inch. There were areas within a thirty-mile radius that did get rains over an inch but overall, the rain bands did not materialize as predicted. As a result, my immediate area remains fairly dry.

LA-RP-7 (9/3/17): Soil was quite saturated last week due to Harvey's heavy rainfall. I got over 8 inches related to Harvey, and over 15 inches during the month of August. No major flooding problems here. Pepper plants appear to be suffering, and may not survive. Sunny and warm conditions during the weekend has dried the standing water, but soil is still pretty moist.

TX-HRR-139 (9/4/17): Many roads still closed due to flooding, stores closed, curfew in effect at night, schools closed, area trying to recover from storm.

The New Newsletter Authors!

CISA Program Coordinator, Kerry Guiseppe, and Research Associate, Ellie Davis, will be taking the lead on writing the monthly Carolinas CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring newsletter. Our team member Megan Sullivan has graduated and is pursuing new adventures. Below is a little more information to help you get to know these two. If you have any suggestions for newsletter articles or if there is anything citizen science related you'd like to learn more about, feel free to e-mail them your

ideas!

Ellie Davis

Hi I'm Ellie! I'm originally from Central Pennsylvania, also known as the "Sweetest Place on Earth" because Hershey's Chocolate is based there! I lived in Washington, DC and then I moved down to Columbia, SC last August for graduate school. Over the last year that I've worked for CISA, I volunteered at the [Carolinas Climate Resilience Conference](#) (CCRC) and manage the [condition monitoring web map](#). My research is in coastal agricultural adaptation and I'm currently completing fieldwork in Hyde County, NC. In between school, work, and research, I like to hang out with my cats, friends, and family as well as garden and read. I look forward to writing the newsletter with Kerry. Feel free to reach out with ideas or advice since we are new to this! You can reach me at eleanord@email.sc.edu.



Kerry Guiseppe

Hi! I joined CISA in January as the Program Coordinator. I work to manage CISA's grant activities and assist on various projects. I have an MS in Ecology and Environmental Sciences from the University of Maine. I have worked on various projects all over the country, from wild blueberries in Maine to program management for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. I am a very proud mother of two and have lived in the Columbia area for four years. I am so excited to be working with CoCoRaHS! You can reach me at guiseppk@mailbox.sc.edu.



Feel free to contact us with any questions.

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