CISA

A NOAA RISA TEAM

January, 2020

CISA & CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring Newsletter

This month's newsletter articles:

- A Look Back on 2019: Record Breaking Heat in North Carolina
- CoCoRaHS Tips for Reporting Winter Weather Conditions
- Southeast Region Monthly Climate Report: December
- Consistent Observer Spotlight
- December Consistent Observers

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

A Look Back on 2019: Record Breaking Heat in North Carolina

The North Carolina State Climate Office has just released an article about the state's record-breaking heat this past year. According to NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information in Asheville, NC, 2019 was the warmest year on record for North Carolina.

Access the article **here**

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to learn more about what contributed to last year's warmth, the state's climate trends, and what rising temperatures could mean for North Carolina residents.

Tips for Reporting Winter Weather Conditions

The new year is finally here, and so is wintry weather in the Carolinas! Areas throughout the mountains of North Carolina have already experienced some snow and ice, which means new condition monitoring indicators to report.

Did you know - in freezing temperatures, its best to remove the inner tube of your rain gauge to prevent any precipitation from freezing inside and causing the tube to crack?

To prepare for the chance of inclement conditions and how they might effect your CoCoRaHS reporting, here are a few resources to guide you through measuring and documenting snow and ice.

Taking snowfall measurements can be slightly more tedious and time consuming than taking rainfall measurements. To learn how to accurately and effectively measure snow depth, watch this **CoCoRaHS training video**. For more information, this CoCoRaHS **training slide show** provides in depth detail on taking snowfall measurements.

Additionally, cold winter weather may cause ice accretion due to freezing rain. Check out this **training video** which explains the procedure for measuring ice accretion on outdoor surfaces. Remember, ice can be hazardous, so only take measurements when you know it is safe to do so!

Southeast Regional Climate Updates

Now that 2019 has come to a close, the Southeast Regional Climate Center's **Annual Southeast Region Climate Report** is now available. Access the full report to learn about regional highlights from last year.

Keep reading below for December highlights from the Monthly Climate Report:

Temperature: Last month, the southeast experienced above average temperatures across the region. Over half the long-term weather stations in the region recorded mean

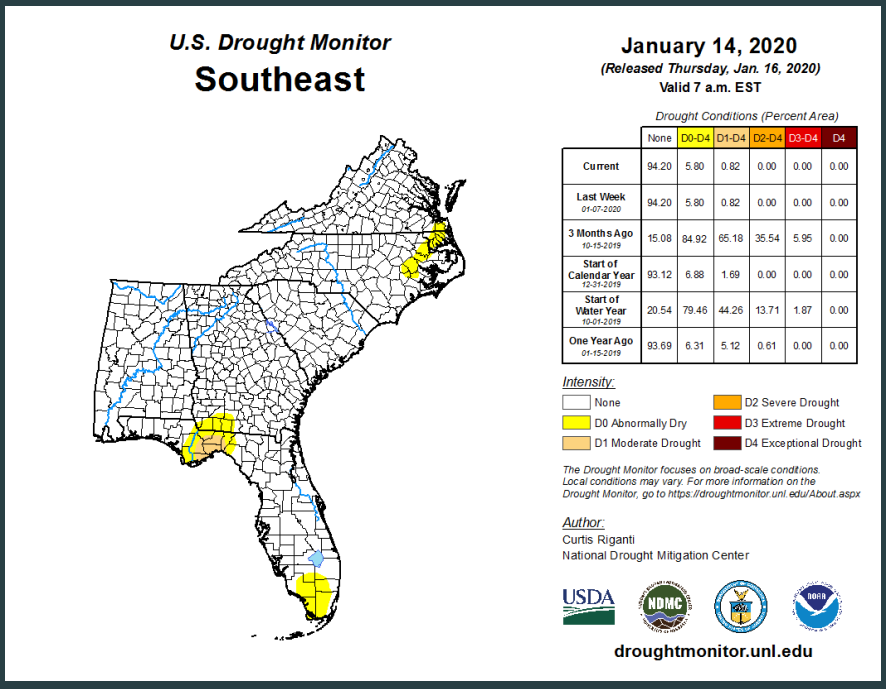
temperatures that were 4 degrees F above average for December. Not a single station recorded temperatures below the average monthly mean.

Precipitation: A large portion of the region encountered particularly wet conditions last month. Excluding Virginia and Eastern NC, much of the southeast experienced conditions about 130% wetter than what is deemed normal. 4 weather stations recorded precipitation levels greater than 9 inches last month. This included Darien, GA with 9.52 inches, West Palm Beach, FL with 9.36 inches, and 9.31 inches in Columbia, SC.

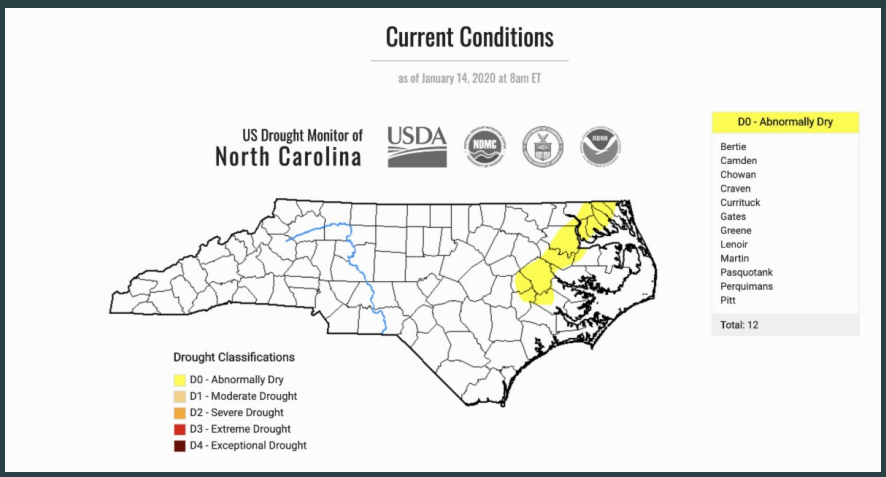
Severe Weather: 78 severe weather occurrences were reported last month. Of these severe weather events, 19 of which were tornadoes, which is roughly three times the monthly average for the month of December. The most aggressive tornado in the region was located in Lawrence County, AL and brought 134 mph winds into the area. Additionally, 57 wind occurrences were reported. 107 mph wind speeds were recorded in Grandfather Mountain, NC.

Drought: For the most part, drought conditions subsided during the month of December. At present, no areas of the southeast are in a state of severe drought (D2). While select areas in the Panhandle and Southern Florida are experiencing moderate drought (D1) and abnormally dry (D0) conditions, drought conditions have subsided throughout Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama.

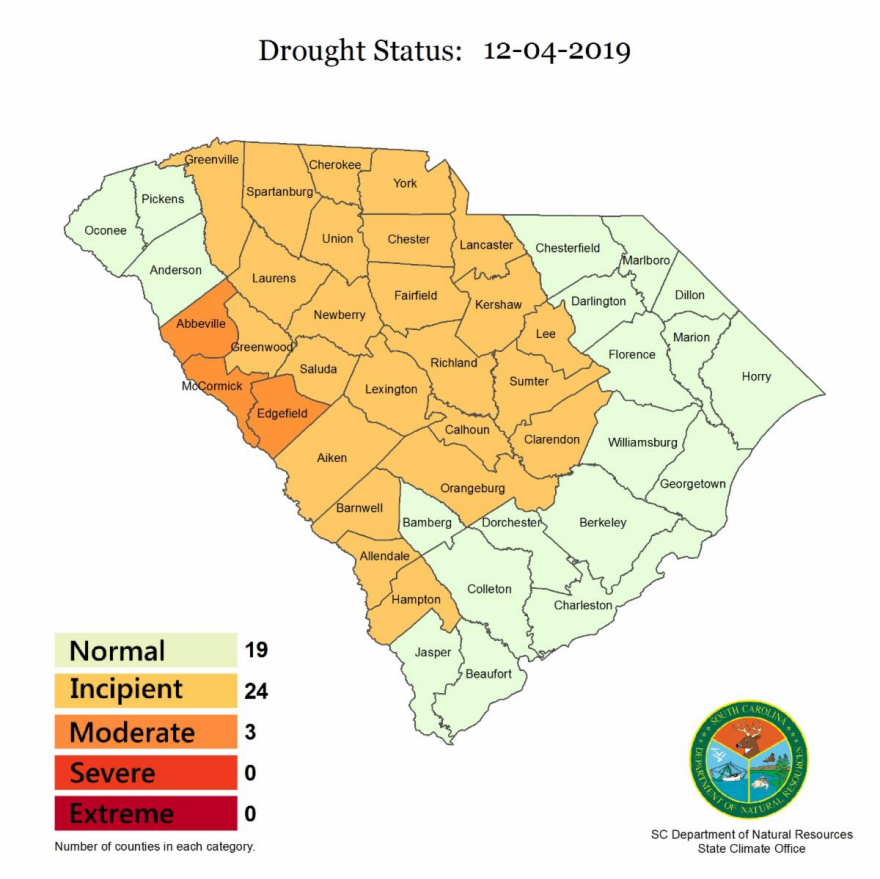
The U.S. Drought Monitor updated the current drought status for the Southeast on Thursday, January 16th. At present, 5.8% of the region is designated as Abnormally Dry (D0), and 0.82% is experiencing Moderate Drought (D1) conditions.



According to the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council, 12 counties in the state are currently designated as Abnormally Dry (D0).



The South Carolina Drought Response Committee had their last meeting on December 4, 2019. At this time, the DRC declared that 24 South Carolina counties were experiencing Incipient Drought (D0) conditions, and 3 counties were experiencing Moderate Drought (D1) conditions.



Consistent Observer Spotlight: Roddy Crenshaw

This month's spotlight consistent observer is Roddy Crenshaw from Linville Falls, North Carolina. He is a retired microbiologist whose interest in weather began when he was a child. At a young age, Roddy was fascinated by his grandfather's calendar which documented snow and rainfall events. His lifelong interest in weather was an inspiration to start volunteering for CoCoRaHS.

Roddy submits condition monitoring reports based on changes in the creek near his house. He tells us that throughout his time as a volunteer, he has come to understand the importance of consistent weather data, which has motivated him to continue reporting thoroughly and often.

He particularly enjoys reporting changes after heavy rainfall events, because the creek and waterfall near his home flow extremely high. Roddy tells us that he also enjoys making observations after snowfall events, and comments on the "beauty of the snow around the waterfall".

Keep up the good work Roddy!

December Consistent Observers

A big thank you to all of our Consistent Condition Monitoring Reporters for finishing the year strong!

Below are the 31 consistent observer stations from the month of December:

South Carolina	North Carolina
SC-AK-75	NC-AV-7
SC-AN-21	NC-BC-1
SC-BF-10	NC-BC-150
SC-BF-23	NC-BK-4
SC-DC-55	NC-CM-42
SC-GV-60	NC-CT-39
SC-GV-94	NC-DH-48
SC-RC-12	NC-DH-6
SC-RC-88	NC-GL-16
	NC-HK-3

NC-HN-41
NC-MS-18
NC-MS-19
NC-MS-5
NC-OR-41
NC-PK-6
NC-PR-5
NC-RW-17
NC-WK-185
NC-WK-203
NC-WK-283
NC-WK-6

Want to Join the Club of Consistent Condition Monitoring Reporters?

We use a threshold of 20 condition monitoring reports over the last 12 months for a station to be considered "consistent." So, submitting a condition monitoring report about once every two weeks will help you reach this goal.

New to condition monitoring? Don't be discouraged! If you submit a report once a week, you can become a "Consistent Station" in as little as five months.

Remember - consistency is key for condition monitoring!

Feel free to contact us with any questions.
Carolinas Integrated Sciences & Assessments
803-777-6875

cisa@sc.edu | **www.cisa.sc.edu**
University of South Carolina
Department of Geography
709 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29208