



CISA

A NOAA RISA TEAM

June 2018

CISA & CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring Newsletter

This month's newsletter includes:

- 20 Years of CoCoRaHS!
- Information about our next Carolinas' Condition Monitoring Observer Call
- A Southeast Regional Climate Update
- Observer Spotlight: Trim White

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

Wishing a Happy 20th Anniversary to CoCoRaHS!

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) began on June 17, 1998. With a few observers along Colorado's Front Range, who would have imagined that the network would become what it is today, with over 20,000 active observers in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Bahamas.

In This Issue

[20 Years of CoCoRaHS!](#)

[Condition Monitoring Call](#)

[SE Regional Climate Update](#)

[Observer Spotlight](#)

Quick Links

[CISA Website](#)

[CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring Webpage](#)

[Cuckoo for CoCoRaHS in the Carolinas Blog](#)

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Quick Links

[More About Us](#)



CoCoRaHS made its original beginning during the summer of 1997 when some curious folk at the Colorado Climate Center started a small project to see what might happen if they gave volunteers foil-covered Styrofoam pads to improve their data resources related to Colorado hailstorms. A high school student in the area asked the researchers why they didn't have volunteers trained to gather data more often.

On the night of July 27, 1997, almost 13 inches of rain fell on the west side of Fort Collins, CO - this is almost the yearly average! Devastating flash floods occurred that claimed five lives that night; lives that could've been saved if the precipitation had been reported and safety precautions had been taken.

After this disaster, a small grant from the Colorado Office of Emergency Management paved the way for CoCoRaHS to begin! The Fort Collins community quickly became engaged in the "Colorado Collaborative Rain and Hail Study" - or CoCoRaHS. Three involved high school students with diverse talents helped CoCoRaHS grow into the flourishing community that it is today!

Participating in daily monitoring was one way for the Fort Collins community to stay on top of other potentially harmful weather extremes in their area-- and look where we all are now!

To learn more about CoCoRaHS's start, click [here](#).

Celebrating Victory in South Carolina!

CISA Team Members recently attended a National Weather Service Workshop in Columbia, SC, where we were lucky enough to see and hold the 2018 CoCoRaHS March Madness Trophy! Thanks to all our new CoCoRaHS observers!



Hope Mizzell, SC State Climatologist, and
Leonard Vaughn from the National Weather
Service Columbia Office



National Weather Service staff from throughout SC, Hope
Mizzell, and CISA's Kerry Guiseppe

Reminder: Condition Monitoring Observer Conference Call

Join us for our next Carolinas Condition Monitoring Observer

call on **Tuesday June 12th from 9 - 10 a.m.**

Phase 2 of the Carolinas Condition Monitoring Pilot Project is officially coming to a close. Come hear about future plans for the program at a national scale and opportunities to continue to interact with the CISA team. We will also discuss some feedback results from local decision makers who use the reports!

The conference call is open to all North and South Carolina CoCoRaHS volunteers so that you have an opportunity to provide any additional information you would like to share with us and to give you an opportunity to talk with one another about your experiences as CoCoRaHS observers and condition monitoring reporters.

NC & SC CoCoRaHS Volunteer Conference Call

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Toll Free Number: **(312) 757-3121**

When prompted, please enter the **access code: 402-526-661**

Southeast Regional Climate Update

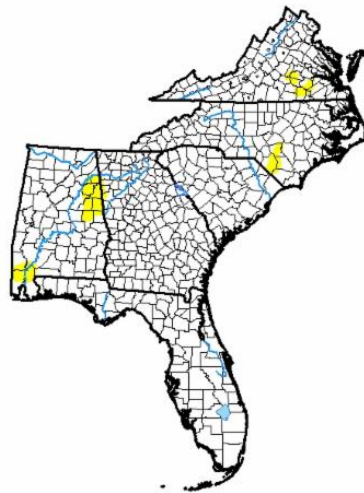


May 24th, 2018 Radar taken from NOAA's reflectivity mosaic.
Charleston had its wettest May on record!

The [National Drought Monitor](#) was updated on May 31, 2018. Overall in the Southeast, 3.22% of the area was Abnormally Dry (D0), and the remaining 96.78% of the region is drought free! This is incredible compared to the 49.61% Abnormally Dry (D0) and 12.52% in Moderate Drought just 3 months ago!

U.S. Drought Monitor Southeast

May 29, 2018
(Released Thursday, May, 31, 2018)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

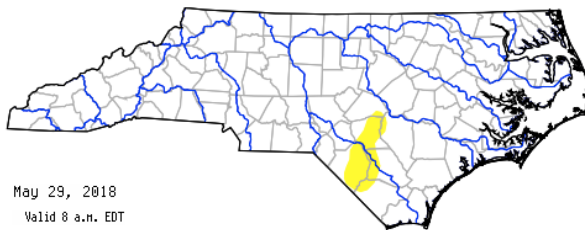
Anthony Artusa
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

The [North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council](#) updated their drought status as of May 31, 2018. There are currently 3 counties with abnormally dry (D0) conditions.

US Drought Monitor of NORTH CAROLINA



May 29, 2018
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Classifications

- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought
- D3 - Extreme Drought
- D4 - Exceptional Drought

County Boundaries Major River Basins ([View Map](#))
S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)
[Hi-Resolution Image](#) | [Print Version](#) |

Released: May 31, 2018

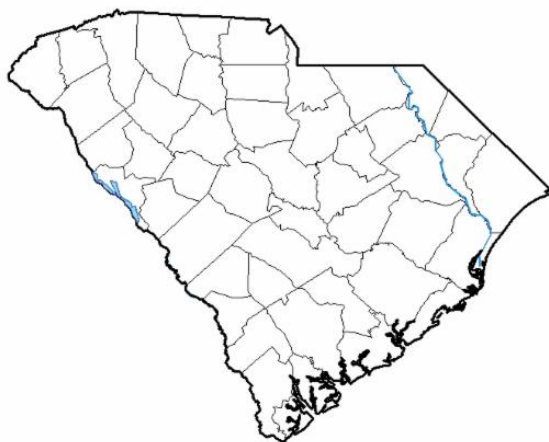
Counties Under Current Advisory

- D0 - Abnormally Dry**
- Bladen County
- Cumberland County
- Robeson County
- Total: 3**

The May 31, 2018 [National Drought Monitor](#) map shows South Carolina is drought free! The heavy rains of May made SC drought free for the first time in nearly two years, and greatly reduced the drought conditions seen throughout the Southeast.

U.S. Drought Monitor
South Carolina

May 29, 2018
(Released Thursday, May, 31, 2018)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
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The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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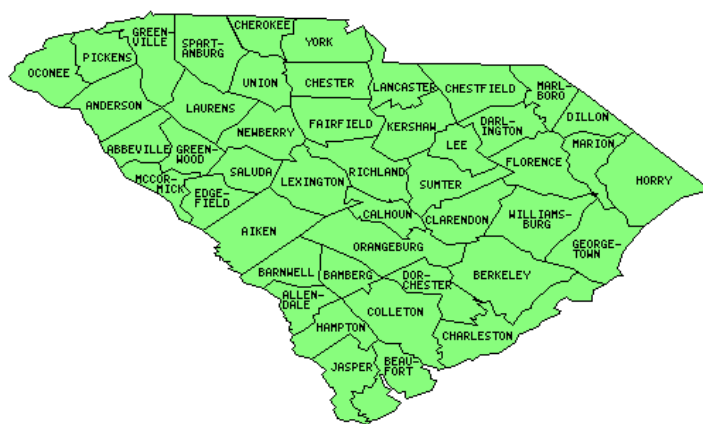


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office
NEWS RELEASE
May 29, 2018

South Carolina Drought Status by County
May 29, 2018



- Normal
- Incipient
- Moderate
- Severe
- Extreme

S.C.
State
Climate
Office

The [South Carolina Drought Response Committee](#) had a meeting on May 29, 2018 to assess current drought conditions. Above average rainfall totals across much of the state during the month of May, along with improving numbers across a range of indicators, prompted members of the Committee to vote unanimously to change the drought status of 13 counties from "incipient" to "normal." According to Hope Mizzell, South Carolina State Climatologist, "The last time the entire state was drought-free was July 8, 2016."

Leonard Vaughn, Senior Hydrologist/Meteorologist with the National Weather Service explained, "A persistent trough of low pressure produced a moist, southerly flow, which increased rainfall coverage. This, combined with the additional moisture

from Sub-Tropical Storm Alberto, brought even more beneficial rainfall. Over the past fourteen days, rainfall across South Carolina, has ranged from 200 to 600 percent above normal, with totals from 3 to 12 inches."

Condition Scale Bar More information on the scale bar Clear Scale Bar						
Severely Dry	Moderately Dry	Mildly Dry	Near Normal	Mildly Wet	Moderately Wet	Severely Wet
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Remember, condition monitoring reports provide crucial data regardless of drought status! Consistency is key when it comes to being a great CoCoRaHS observer! CoCoRaHS condition monitoring reports help detect the early signs of drought, so remember to keep reporting -- you can even report a "severely wet" day! Reporting wetness is important because if the soils in your area are saturated and water levels are noticeably high, forecasters in your area may use your information in making decisions!

June Observer Spotlight: Trim White (NC-PR-5)

Our spotlight for June comes from Yeopim Creek, North Carolina. Trim told us, "I first joined CoCoRaHS in March 2013 after reading an article in the newspaper and have reported every day since. Then shortly after, CISA held a seminar in nearby Edenton. I attended, and they promoted CoCoRaHS and drought monitoring. When they changed to condition monitoring format I started doing weekly condition reports."



Rain and Road Flooding from
Hurricane Matthew Courtesy Trim
White

Trim has lots of animals and plants to report on in NC. "I live on Yeopim creek and have a hobby farm raising goats, sheep, chickens, ducks and guineas. I have 3 cats and two watch dogs, Timex and my Granddog Rolex. I have a garden and fruit trees. I also live in a hunting, fishing and farming community. All this helps keep my interest in this active."

As seen in the photos, Trim had firsthand experience with Hurricane Matthew. "My favorite report was on 10/15/16 during Hurricane Matthew. We had 10.86" of rain and the threat did not come from Yeopim Creek but from the ditches and gullies running through the fields and woods. We had a flash flood rushing towards us and the creek."

Trim's advice to other observers is, "I like to make my condition report short and simple and I try to make mental notes through the week on what I have noticed to make reporting easier and quicker. Make it fun. The best weatherperson is yourself. Wishing everyone health happiness and long-life!"

Feel free to contact us with any questions.

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