



**June 2019**

# CISA & CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring Newsletter

**Not Just for Drought Monitoring  
What other decisions can condition  
monitoring reports help to inform?**

When the Condition Monitoring pilot project was launched in 2013, we only had one thing in mind - improving drought monitoring and reporting. Now that we have 6 years and over 40,000 reports under our belt, we've learned that these reports contain much more than just information about whether an area is experiencing drought conditions.

Your reports contain an abundance of useful, on-the-ground observations regarding the local impacts of weather events, such as droughts, floods, winter weather, hurricanes, and so much more.

Over the next year we will be talking with decision makers in the Carolinas to hear more from them about other decisions condition monitoring reports can inform.

We'll pass this information along to CoCoRaHS observers in the Carolinas, to help you understand these other types of decision making and the things you might look for in your local community that could help to inform them.

Be on the lookout for more information and a webinar announcement where you'll have a chance to learn more.

## **This month's newsletter articles:**

- Citizen Science Opportunity: Stargaze with Globe at Night
- Memorial Day Weekend Record Heat

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

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## **Citizen Scientist Opportunity: Stargaze with Globe at Night**

Summer nights are perfect for camping, bonfires, and stargazing. By participating in the Globe at Night citizen science project, you can indulge in all these fun activities all while submitting information about light pollution! The project involves collecting and submitting data about light pollution patterns and constellation visibility from different areas around the globe.



Globe at Night Orientation Video

More information about the project and getting involved with their June campaign can be found on [their website](#).

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## **Memorial Day Weekend Record Heat**

It comes as no surprise that the Carolinas are experiencing some blazing hot days as we quickly approach Summer months. In fact, the month of May shattered several record breaking high-temperature days across the Southeast. Over Memorial Day Weekend, roughly nine different cities across the Southeast reached record breaking temperatures. Across the Carolinas, Charleston, SC and Wilmington, NC both reached 100 degree days. The full article detailing these extreme heat events, as well as a video on heatstroke safety can be accessed [here](#).

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## **Southeast Regional Climate Update**

The Southeast Regional Climate Center has released their [Monthly Climate Report](#) for May.

## Here's what you need to know:

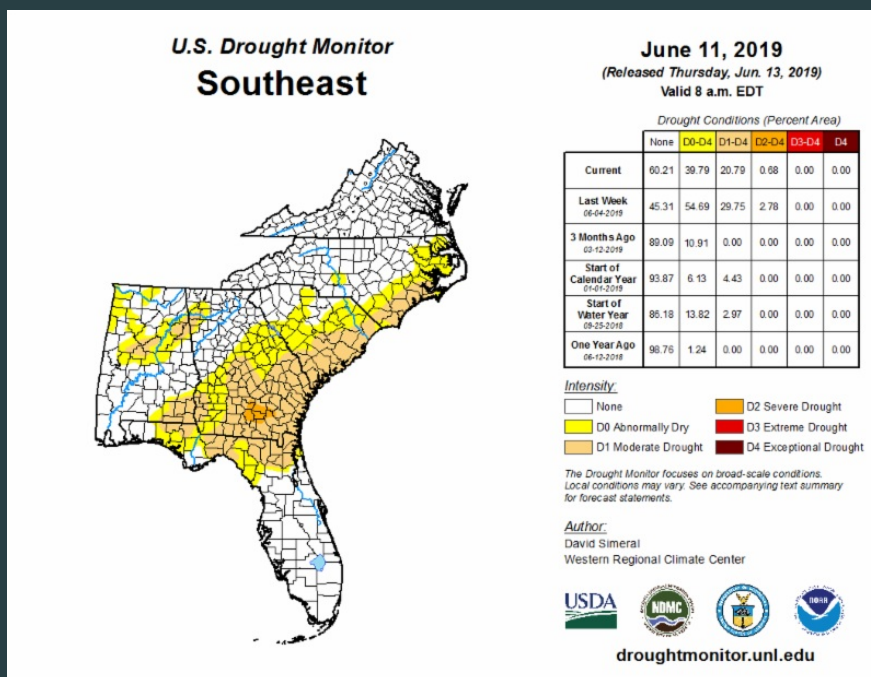
**Temperature:** Across the Southeast, regional temperatures were consistently measured above average thresholds for the month of May. Mean temperatures throughout the month were about 5 degrees above averages for roughly 46% of stations in the region.

**Precipitation:** Precipitation levels throughout the region ranged from 25 to 70 percent of what is typically normal for the month of May. Florida was an exception, as select areas of the peninsula experienced up to 200 percent of normal rainfall levels. The coastal Carolinas, central Alabama and Georgia, the Florida peninsula, and eastern Puerto Rico experienced the driest conditions in the region.

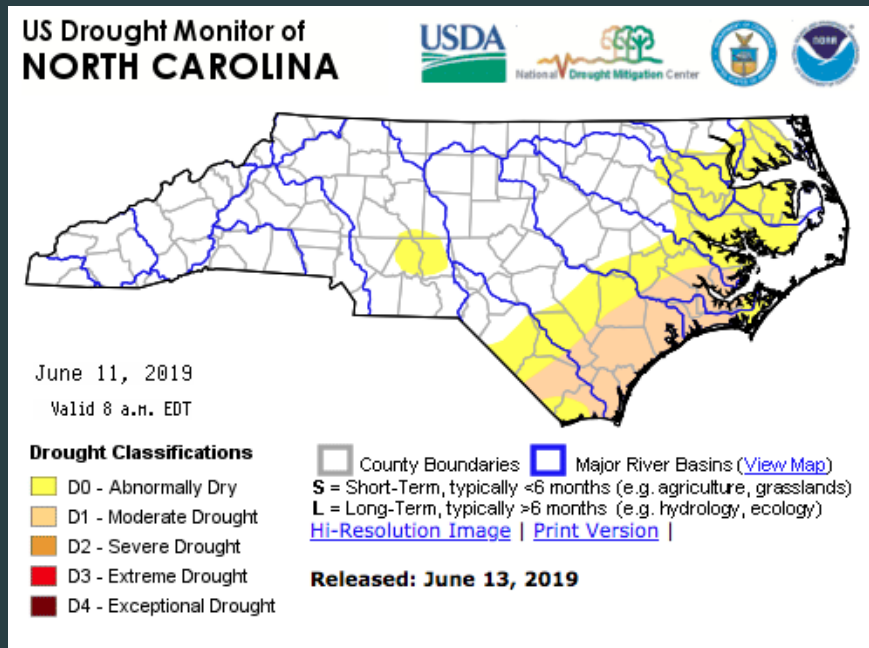
**Severe Weather:** 566 severe weather events were reported across the Southeast last month. This included 9 tornadoes, 113 hail reports, and 442 strong wind occurrences.

**Drought:** Drought conditions became further amplified across the Southeast in May. Moderate drought conditions in the Southeast expanded from 9% to about 12% of the region. About 50% of the region experienced abnormally dry conditions along the coast of North and South Carolina, Georgia, central Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle.

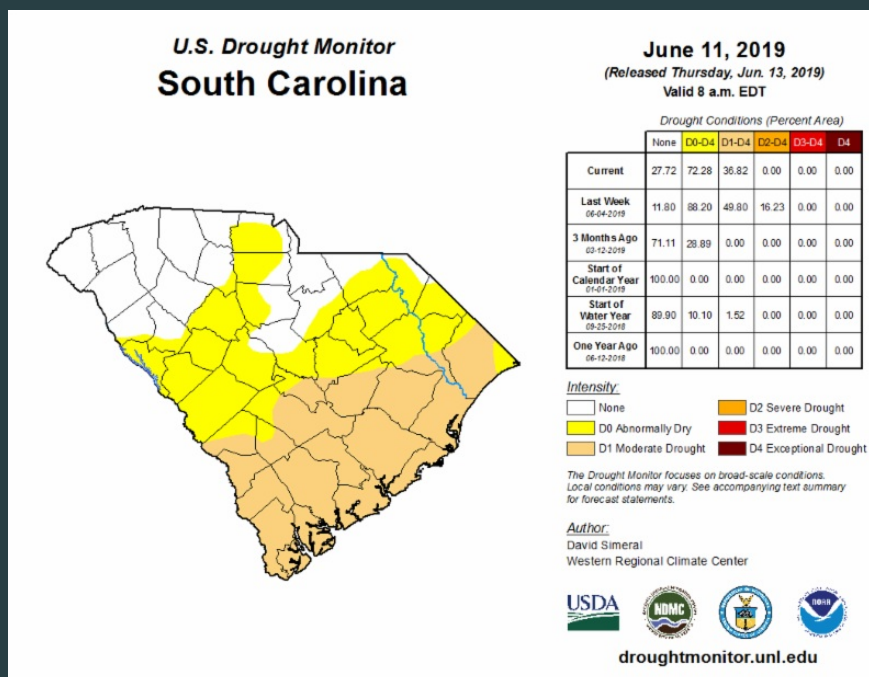
The [National Drought Monitor](#) was updated on June 13th, 2019. At present, 39.79% of the Southeast region is designated as Abnormally Dry (D0) and 20.79% is in a state of Moderate Drought (D1).



[Council](#) updated their drought status as of June 13, 2019. There are currently 18 counties experiencing abnormally dry (D0) conditions, and 11 experiencing moderate drought (D1) conditions.



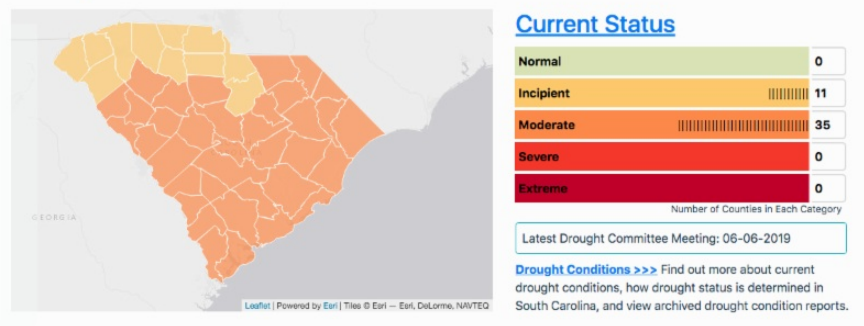
For the State of South Carolina, the [National Drought Monitor](#) map indicates that 72.28% of the state is under abnormally dry (D0) drought conditions, and 36.82% of South Carolina is in a state of moderate drought (D1).



The [South Carolina Drought Response Committee](#) had their most recent meeting on Thursday, June 6th. The Drought Committee determined that throughout the state, Incipient drought conditions exist in 11 counties, and Moderate drought exists in 35 counties.



## Drought in South Carolina



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!

## Consistent Observer Spotlight

### Edward Barrows

Our spotlight observer for this June is Ed Barrows from Holly Springs, North Carolina. Ed has been submitting condition monitoring reports since 2014, and reporting precipitation since 2007. Ed says he has maintained a rain gauge in his yard ever since he can remember, and thought submitting his observations to CoCoRaHS would be a great opportunity to put his data to good use.



Ed loves observing and reporting on all things plant and wildlife related. He tells us that reporting his observations to CoCoRaHS condition monitoring: "increases my sense of wonder and awe in all that is around us". He has even spotted an albino deer from time to time in his backyard! Ed is enthusiastic about the condition monitoring program because it allows him to describe his own unique observations, and share them with the world.

Thanks to all of our Consistent Reporters for the month of May! The 28 observer stations are as follows:

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

SC-AK-75  
SC-AN-21  
SC-BF-10  
SC-BF-23  
SC-BF-50  
SC-DC-55  
SC-GV-15  
SC-GV-60  
SC-LX-5  
SC-RC-12  
SC-RC-88

#### NORTH CAROLINA

NC-AV-7  
NC-BC-1  
NC-BC-150  
NC-CM-42  
NC-DH-48  
NC-DH-6  
NC-GL-16  
NC-HK-3  
NC-JH-46  
NC-MS-18  
NC-MS-5  
NC-PR-5  
NC-PT-63  
NC-RW-17  
NC-WK-185  
NC-WK-203  
NC-WK-6

Want to Join the Club of Consistent Reporters?  
We use a threshold of 20 reports over the last 12 months for a station to be considered "consistent." So, submitting a 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!

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Feel free to contact us with any questions.  
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