



# CISA

A NOAA RISA TEAM

September 2019

## CISA & CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring Newsletter

This month's newsletter articles:

- Hurricane Dorian Condition Monitoring
- Southeast Regional Climate Update
- Consistent Observer Spotlight: Diane Dwareskas
- July Consistent Condition Monitoring Observers List

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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### Hurricane Dorian Condition Monitoring

A week after Hurricane Dorian swept through the Carolinas, we put together a few Condition Monitoring Reports detailing the event along the coast. Thanks to our intrepid reporters for helping document the impacts of this Hurricane! Be sure to check out the [Condition Monitoring webmap](#) to view reports from other observers leading up to, during, and following the storm.

NC-NH-62

September 2, 2019

Carolina Beach, North Carolina

*"Short Update due to approaching Hurricane Dorian. The New Hanover County Emergency Operations Center has been activated. Yesterday's heavy rain brought 1.87 inches*

*in just about an hour. Prior to that the day before brought 0.37 inches of rain. Despite being dry before that for several days we have pushed from mildly dry to at least near normal for the short term. For purposes of condition monitoring we are now normal but for purposes of long term drought monitoring we would remain abnormally dry. This may change this week however as Dorian is forecast to bring up to 10 inches of rain."*

SC-DC-55

September 6, 2019

Summerville, South Carolina

*"Almost 4 inches of rain due to Hurricane Dorian has replenished the water level in the retention pond. The strong winds snapped off several large tree branches in our area.*

*Surprisingly, the cardinals, nuthatches, red-belly woodpeckers, and brown thrashers still came to the peanut feeders during the storm. Even the hummingbirds came to the feeders during lulls in the storm."*

NC-SM-1

September 9, 2019

Clinton, North Carolina

*"Still some sporadic flooding from Dorian. Some small creeks at flood stage. My lawn and pasture have patches of moisture that aren't "mowable". But the heat and humidity has cranked up!!"*

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## Southeast Regional Climate Update

The Southeast Regional Climate Center [Monthly Climate Report](#) for August is now available.

Here's what you need to know:

**Temperature:** In August, mean monthly temperatures were near average throughout the Southeast. Only 8 of the 197 weather stations recorded monthly mean temperatures 3 degrees above the average.

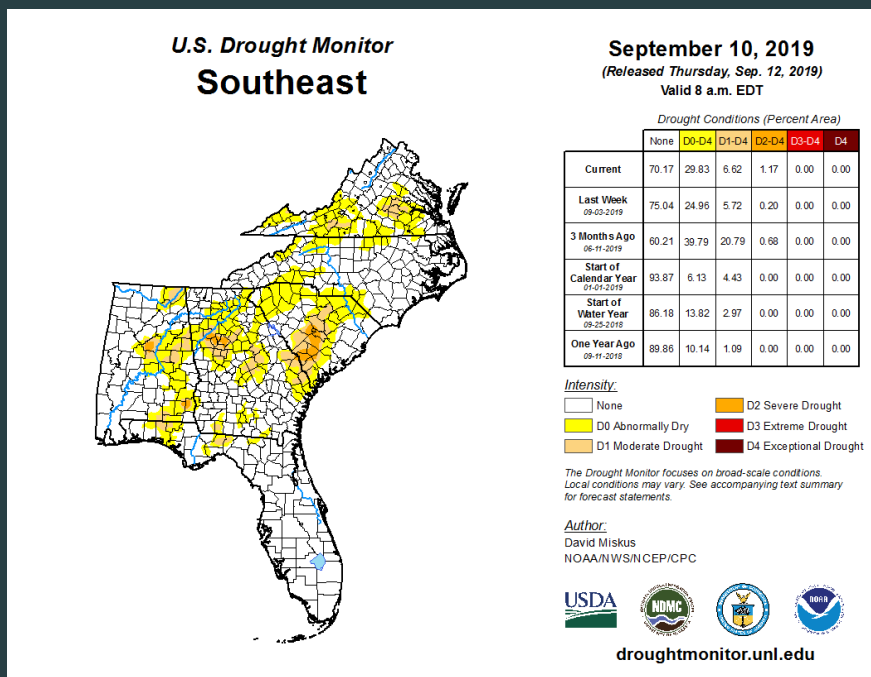
**Precipitation:** Like most summer months, precipitation levels in August were variable. The driest parts of the region included western Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, most parts of South Carolina, and select areas of Florida. Several weather stations recorded precipitation levels that are within some of the highest values recorded, including Greensboro AL, Augusta GA, and Stuart, FL.

**Severe Weather:** In the month of August, 712 severe

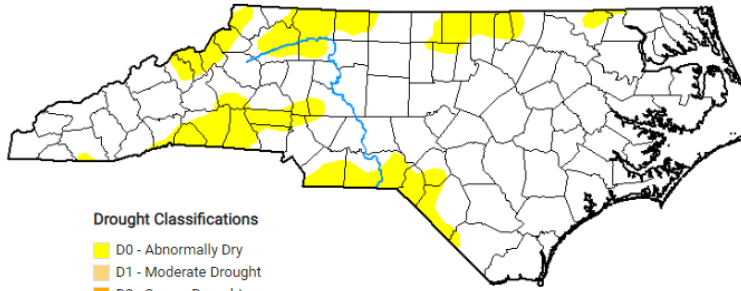
weather events were observed and recorded, which is 2.5 times the median monthly frequency. Out of these occurrences, 44 were hail events, which is nearly double what is expected in August. 665 strong wind events were also recorded, including 65 mp winds in Orangeburg County, SC.

**Drought:** Drought conditions throughout the region shifted marginally during August. Severe drought conditions (D2) remained in select areas of South Carolina and Alabama. Additionally, moderate drought (D1) conditions were surrounded by abnormally dry conditions (D0) throughout southeastern North Carolina, central South Carolina and Georgia, northern Florida, and select parts of Alabama.

The most recent [National Drought Monitor](#) report was updated on September 10th, 2019. Currently, 29.83% of the Southeast is marked as Abnormally Dry (D0). Furthermore, 6.62% of the region is experiencing Moderate Drought Conditions (D1).



The [North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council](#) updated and released their drought status September 10, 2019. At present, 29 North Carolina counties are experiencing Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions, and no counties are experiencing drought conditions.



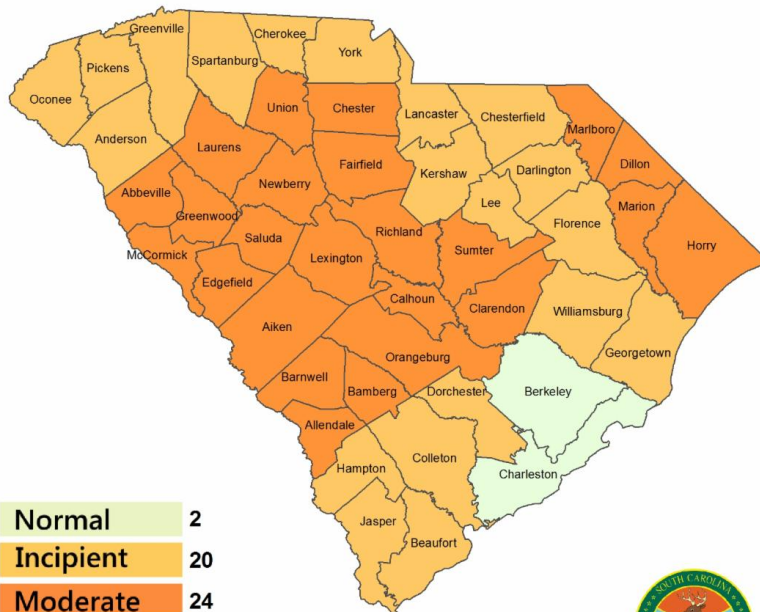
**Drought Classifications**

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

S - Short-Term impacts, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)  
L - Long-Term impacts, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The [South Carolina Drought Response Committee](#) had their most recent meeting on August 12. The Committee declared that 2 counties are experiencing normal conditions, 20 counties are in a state of Incipient Drought, and 24 counties are experiencing Moderate Drought conditions.

**Drought Status: 08-12-2019**



Normal	2
Incipient	20
Moderate	24
Severe	0
Extreme	0

Number of counties in each category.



SC Department of Natural Resources  
State Climate Office

## Consistent Observer Spotlight Diane Dwareskas

Diane Dwareskas is from Hilton Head Island and first discovered CoCoRaHS on the weather radio in South Carolina. She has been a weather observer for over 50 years. Diane

enjoys making observations of wildlife, water quality, and the impacts of drought and precipitation. She notes that the brackish lagoon near her house is an ideal observation spot for viewing gators, birds, and fish. Diane tells us that "I have the best wildlife show here every day."

The most exciting event for Diane to report on was Hurricane Matthew, as it brought a tidal surge into the area that overflowed the lagoon. She states that during the hurricane: "The most amazing thing was in the afternoon when the rains had started before the full impact of the storm the big alligator (he's about 10 ft long) came swimming home in the drainage ditch, walked across my front lawn and continued on his way to the lagoon. They have a real sense of when a storm is approaching and to come home from the marsh".

Diane encourages new observers to remain dedicated and interested when reporting, and pay careful attention to changes in climate overtime.

A big thank you and congratulations to all of our Consistent Reporters for the month of August!

The 27 consistent observer stations are as follows:

SOUTH CAROLINA	NORTH CAROLINA
SC-AK-75	NC-BC-1
	NC-BC-150
SC-AN-21	NC-BK-4
	NC-CM-42
SC-BF-10	NC-DH-48
	NC-DH-6
SC-BF-23	NC-GL-16
	NC-HK-3
SC-BF-50	NC-MS-18
	NC-MS-19
SC-DC-55	NC-MS-5
	NC-PR-5
SC-GV-15	NC-RW-17
	NC-WK-185
SC-GV-60	NC-WK-203
	NC-WK-283
SC-RC-12	NC-WK-6
SC-RC-88	

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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