

NWS Duluth Winter Spotter Reference

Winter Weather Reporting Criteria

Remember to include **Time**, **Location**, **Condition**, and **Source** in your report!

Example: "At **7am** I measured **4"** of new snow here in **Duluth** - this is **Joe**, a trained spotter"

Snow

- You can report any amount, but we **recommend reporting snow when you measure 1" or more of new snowfall**
- Report anytime, but in the morning (~7am) and/or after the storm is great
- Use a snow board if possible!
- If you don't have a snow board, take multiple measurements and avoid drifts!!
- May also report total snow depth on the ground (snow pack)

Ice

- **Please report ANY ice, even just a glaze**
- 1. **Flat Ice** - Measure thickness of ice on flat surface like a flat deck railing or patio furniture
- 2. **Radial Ice** - Measure ice around a branch - we want the **RADIUS** of the ice around a branch
- Report any impacts from ice (i.e. downed branches)

One-Time Reports

Use one of the following to share your report:

- **Online Report Form** (Great way to report! Make sure to share your name/contact info on the last page): <https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov/report/>
- **NWS Duluth Social Media** (Comment or message - pictures encouraged!)
- **Email:** nws.duluth@noaa.gov
- **Phone:** 218-729-6697 x0

CoCoRaHS Daily Reports

Can you report your precipitation measurements every day? We are always looking for volunteers to sign up for **CoCoRaHS**, especially if you live in a rural area! Snowfall-only observers are welcome. (*Reporting rain requires the use of a standard rain gauge, ~\$40.*) For more information and to sign up, visit cocorahs.org

Questions? Email **Steve:** steve.gohde@noaa.gov

Current Precipitation Type Reporting - mPING app

For current winter precipitation type (rain/snow/sleet/etc.) and small hail reports, you can use the free **mPING** app available for iOS and Android: <https://mping.nssl.noaa.gov/> (Anonymous - Free - Report what's falling (or "none") as often as you'd like!)



NWS Duluth Official Forecast & Contact Information

- **NWS Duluth Website:** <https://www.weather.gov/dlh/>
 - For your official forecast, click on map or enter city/state/zip code at top left
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/NWSDuluth>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/NWSDuluth>
- **NWS Duluth Public Phone:** 218-729-6697 (press “0” to reach forecaster, 24/7)
 - *Trained Skywarn Spotters may use the secret 800 number for reports*
- **NWS Duluth Email:** nws.duluth@noaa.gov
*(Use this email for reports - For tours, educational outreach, or Skywarn spotter-related questions, please contact NWS Duluth Warning Coordination Meteorologist **Joe Moore** at joseph.moore@noaa.gov)*

Winter Measurement Training

- **PDF SLIDE SHOW:** [“In Depth” Snow Measuring!](#)
- **VIDEO: Set-Up - Preparing to measure snowfall:** [Setting up for Measuring Snow](#)
 - To report snowfall only, you just need a measuring stick and a good measuring surface. We strongly recommend getting a “snow board” for a measuring surface if you want to report daily, but it’s OK if you don’t have one.
 - No rain gauge? That’s OK! You do *NOT* need a plastic rain gauge to report snow only.
 - Note: You do NOT need a “snow swatter” - don’t worry about that!
- **VIDEO: Measuring snowfall:** [How to Measure New Snow Depth](#)
- **PDF SLIDE SHOW:** [Measuring Ice \(Freezing Rain\)](#)
- **VIDEO:** [How to Measure Ice Accretion \(Freezing Rain\)](#)
- **VIDEO: Ready to join CoCoRaHS?** Watch this video for everything you’ll need to know: [Getting started with CoCoRaHS - Introductory Training Webinar](#)
 - Questions about winter measurement or joining CoCoRaHS? Contact NWS Duluth Observations Program Leader **Steve Gohde** at steve.gohde@noaa.gov

Winter Forecast & Conditions

- **Forecast Points:** <https://www.weather.gov/forecastpoints> (*Experimental*)
- **Snowfall Probability Information:** <https://www.weather.gov/dlh/winter> (*Experimental*)
- **Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI):** wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/wssi/wssi.php?id=DLH
- **Road Conditions** - Call 511, visit website, or use app
 - **Minnesota:** <https://www.511mn.org/> (iOS App / Android App)
 - **Wisconsin:** <https://511wi.gov/> (iOS App / Android App)
- **Snowfall Reports Map:** <https://www.weather.gov/source/crh/snowmap.html?sid=dlh>
- **CoCoRaHS Reports Map:** <https://maps.cocorahs.org/> (CoCoRaHS Only)
- [Snowfall Analysis Map - Simple](#)
- [Snowfall Analysis Map - Advanced](#)
- **New NWS Radar Site:** <https://preview-radar.weather.gov/> (*Preview Version*)