

CoCoRaHS – What to Do When You’ve Been Away

Q: I’ve been away for a few days, and came back to find precipitation in my gauge. How do I report it?

A: There are 2 options. If you’re certain that all the precipitation fell within a single day (and did not span two days – remember the “day” begins at 7am), then you can go ahead and send in a delayed report for that day. Otherwise, send in a “Multi-Day Accumulation Report.” If more rain is possible between the time you return and the next morning, then it is better to wait until 7am the next day, then send your multi-day accumulation report.



Example Situation 1

You left on Monday July 2nd at Noon, and returned Thursday July 5th at 5 pm. There is 0.50” of rain in your gauge. Talking to neighbors, you’re told that there was a bad thunderstorm Wednesday evening, cancelling July 4th fireworks, but otherwise it hasn’t rained. How do you fill out your CoCoRaHS reports?

Answer: Enter 0.00” for Tue 7/3, 0.00” for Wed 7/4, and 0.50 for Thu 7/5. Be sure to empty your gauge. Remember your reports a valid at around 7am on the observing day. Since the rain on Thursday 7/4 fell in the afternoon, after the 7am reporting time, the precip would not be reported until 7am the next day, July 5th.

Example Situation 2

You left on Friday August 10th at Noon, and returned Monday August 13th at 4 pm, and it is raining lightly. There is 1.27” of rain in your gauge. Talking to neighbors, you’re told that the weekend has been a wash-out. Several rounds of thunderstorms have affected the area. How do you fill out your CoCoRaHS report?

Answer: Since it is actively raining, it is better to leave your gauge alone until the next morning. Then, since you don’t know how much rain fell on each day, send a “Multi-Day Accumulation report” with the total amount. After that, you can empty your gauge resume taking your normal daily reports.

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Q: I’ve been away for a few days, and it has rained several times during that period. However, I have a home weather station that can tell me the daily totals. Should I use those amounts in CoCoRaHS?

A: No. Most home weather stations use tipping-bucket rain gauges which can “miss” precipitation during heavy rainfall. Also, the data on your home weather station is likely to be recording precip “Midnight to Midnight” instead of 24 hours ending at 7 am. To keep life simple, just send a multi-day precipitation report with the total amount found in your 4” CoCoRaHS rain gauge.

Your home weather station data may still be valuable for other purposes. Considering joining the Citizen Weather Observing Program to share your data live via the internet!

CoCoRaHS Previous Day Precipitation

1.) On the CoCoRaHS Homepage, Click “My Data” on the top Menu. The Daily Precip Report Form will come up, set to today’s date by default.

2.) Change the “Observation Date” to the appropriate date, and enter data as you normally would.

The screenshot shows the CoCoRaHS website interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, States, View Data, Maps, My Data (circled in red), My Account, Admin, and Logout. The main heading is "My Data Entry : Daily Precipitation Report Form". On the left, there are two menu sections: "Enter My New Reports" and "List/Edit My Reports", both containing links for Daily Precipitation, Hail, Significant Weather, Multi-Day Accumulation, Monthly Zeros, and Drought Impact Report. The main form area is titled "Precipitation Report Form" and includes "Submit Data" and "Reset" buttons. The form fields are: Station Number: NM-DA-217; Station Name: Santa Teresa 1.1 NNW; Observation Date: 3/23/2012 (circled in red); Observation Time: 7:00 AM; Precipitation amount: 0.00; Report taken at registered location: Yes (selected); and an Observation Notes text area.

3.) If you only have Zeroes to report, click on “Monthly Zeroes” under “Enter My New Reports” on the left menu.

The screenshot shows the "My Data Entry : Monthly Zeros Form". The top navigation bar includes "Submit" (circled in red) and "Reset" buttons. The form displays Station Number: NM-DA-217 and Station Name: Santa Teresa 1.1 NNW. Below this is a calendar for March 2012. The calendar grid shows days from 26 to 31. The bottom row of the calendar (days 25-31) is highlighted in yellow. The 21st and 22nd of March are circled in red, and each has a checked checkbox next to "0.0 Precip".

March 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
				Precip: 0	Precip: 0	Precip: 0
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Precip: 0	Precip: 0	Precip: 0	Precip: 0	Precip: 0	Precip: 0	Precip: 0
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Precip: 0	Precip: 0	Precip: 0	Precip: 0	Precip: 0	Precip: 0	Precip: 0
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Precip: 0	Precip: 0	Precip: T	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0.0 Precip	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0.0 Precip	<input type="checkbox"/> 0.0 Precip	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

4.) Simply click on the check boxes for all those dates where Zero Precip fell, then click submit.

CoCoRaHS Multiple Day Precipitation

1.) On the CoCoRaHS Homepage, Click “My Data” on the top Menu.

2.) Under ‘Enter My New Reports’ on the left menu, click on “Multi-Day Accumulation.”

3.) Enter the first day of the accumulation period. This will be one day after your last report. So if you last reported on Sunday March 10th at 7:00 am, you would enter Monday March 11th.

4.) Enter the date the rain gauge was emptied, followed by the time it was emptied. It is best to wait until a regular reporting period to file a multi-day precip report. For example, if you came back home at 4pm, wait until 7am the next day.

5.) Enter the amount of liquid precipitation, current snow depth (leave blank if nothing), and liquid equivalent of snow depth (blank if nothing).

The screenshot shows the CoCoRaHS website interface. At the top, the logo and tagline "COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK" are visible. A navigation bar includes "Home | States | View Data | Maps" and "My Data | My Account | Admin | Log". A red circle highlights "My Data" with a callout box labeled "1".

On the left sidebar, under "Enter My New Reports", "Multi-Day Accumulation" is highlighted with a red circle and a callout box labeled "2".

The main content area is titled "My Data Entry : Multi-Day Precipitation Report Form". Below this is the "Multiple Day Accumulation Form" with "Submit Data" and "Reset" buttons. The form fields are:

- Station Number : NM-DA-217
- Station Name : Santa Teresa 1.1 NNW
- First day of accumulation period: 3/11/2012 (callout "3")
- Date the rain gauge was emptied: 3/12/2012 (callout "4")
- Time the rain gauge was emptied: AM (callout "4")
- Report was taken at registered location? (radio buttons for Yes and No)
- Multi Day Precipitation (in inches) (callout "5")
- Total Depth of Snow on Ground (in inches) (callout "5")
- Core Precipitation (in inches) (callout "5")

A "Notes" text area is located below the form fields. At the bottom of the form, "Submit Data" and "Reset" buttons are shown, with "Submit Data" circled in red and a callout box labeled "6".

6.) Finally, hit “Submit Data.”