




National Weather Service Mobile/Pensacola
Observation Program

Tips on Measuring and Reporting Freezing Rain/and Glaze Accrual

Ice accumulation from freezing rain does not coat the surface of objects evenly. Gravity will usually cause the rain-water to run to the underside of an object before it freezes. Wind can create the same effect. In either case, the result would be a thicker coating of ice on one side of the object compared to the opposite side. **The Key Point to Remember, The NWS is looking for an average thickness of ice accrual. You can accurately estimate the thickness of the ice with the method below.** You will need a ruler, paper, pen or pencil. Another best practice is to take a  of your ruler on the ice-covered object for reference and to share.

1. Locate an ice-covered object that is out in the open. A small tree branch in the middle of the yard or clothesline is usually easiest to handle.
2. Move to a position where you can see both the thickest and thinnest portions of ice coating the object from one side to the other.
3. Using the ruler, measure the thickest part of the ice, from the edge of the object to the edge of the ice. Record that value on your paper.
4. Similarly, measure the thinnest part of the ice, from the edge of the object to the edge of the ice. Record that value on your paper.
5. Add the two values together and then divide by two. The resulting value is your ice accumulation. *****Convert the measurement to tenths of an inch***** as in the example and report the value.

ICE ACCRETION EXAMPLES



Ways to Report Icing:

1. Please Be very very careful as risk of falls from slick spots is greatly increased.
2. Please send the NWS Mobile a notification of your report via our handy [On-Line Report Form](#).
3. NWS Mobile Facebook - facebook.com/NWSMobile
4. NWSMobile X - @NWSMobile
5. Call our Office - 251-633-6443

When making your report on the on-line form, please remember to include the following information, if known:

- **The time you measured ice, your location, as specifically as possible, the time the icing began, if known, any known hazardous road conditions, and any observed damage caused by the icing, including downed tree branches and/or powerlines.**

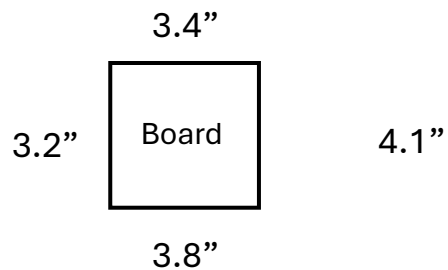


Tips on Measuring and Reporting Sleet/Snow

If you have a small flat board, place it in an open area that is as level as possible before the onset of the winter weather event. 🖱️ If snowfall is expected to be heavy enough to cover the board, ensure you mark the position of the board with a stick or flag.

Sleet is measured the same way newly fallen snow is measured.

1. Avoid measuring sleet/snow under trees or directly next to buildings.
2. Slide a ruler directly downward into the sleet/snow until it reaches the board. Take a picture of the ruler and sleet/snow top for future reference and to share. 📷
3. Read the values on the ruler to the nearest tenth of an inch for newly fallen snow. For snow depth, measure to the grass around the board as in the example below, in different areas and average the amounts to the nearest whole inch. Snow Depth Measurement Example:



Add the four values in this case and divide by 4, for the number of measurements. Snow Depth = 3.6". Round value to nearest whole inch = **4"**



Ways to Report Sleet/Snow:

1. First, be very careful as the risk of falls increase due to slick conditions!!!
2. Please send the NWS Mobile a notification of your report via our handy [On-Line Report Form](#)
3. NWS Mobile Facebook - facebook.com/NWSMobile
4. NWSMobile X - @NWSMobile
5. Call our Office - 251-633-6443

When making your report on the on-line form, please remember to include the following information, if known:

- **The time you measured sleet/snow, your location, as specifically as possible, the time the sleet/snow began, if known, and any known hazardous road conditions.**

Your reports are vital for our awareness, decision making, post event analysis and storm data. Thank you so much!