

Summer 2020 Edition

Spotter Spotlight

The Official Newsletter for Spotters in the Mojave Desert & Southern Great Basin

By Chelsea Kryston and Andrew Gorelow

NEW Seasonal Newsletter:

For the dedicated SKYWARN Spotters reporting to NWS Las Vegas

What to Report This Summer

Examples of what weather to report this summer

- ✓ Who you are
- ✓ Weather & Impact
- ✓ Location
- ✓ Time



Wind Damage & Estimated Wind Speeds

39-46	Twigs and small branches broken off trees	
47-54	Slight structural damage occurs; shingles blown from roof	
55-63	Trees broken; structural damage occurs	
64-72	Widespread damage to trees and buildings	
73+	Extensive damage	

REPORT

HAIL: Largest stone size

FLOODING: Impacts, Depth

WIND DAMAGE: Type, Coverage

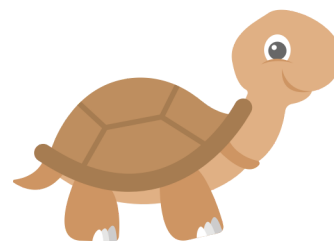
VISIBILITY: Cause, Distance

SNOW: Amount, Travel Issues

Tips

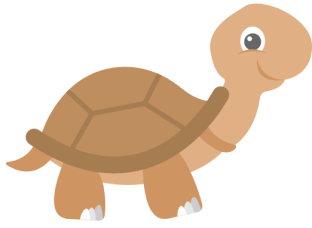
Pictures and videos via Twitter or email are preferred when submitting a spotter report. If calling in a report, include as much detail as you can, i.e. the duration of the impact or hazard.

Hi! My name is Bolt, the designated Spotter Tortoise.



Haven't been to a course in a while?

Check out this recorded spotter talk from 2019, [available here!](#) Want to update your information with us, you can do so through this [Google Form!](#)



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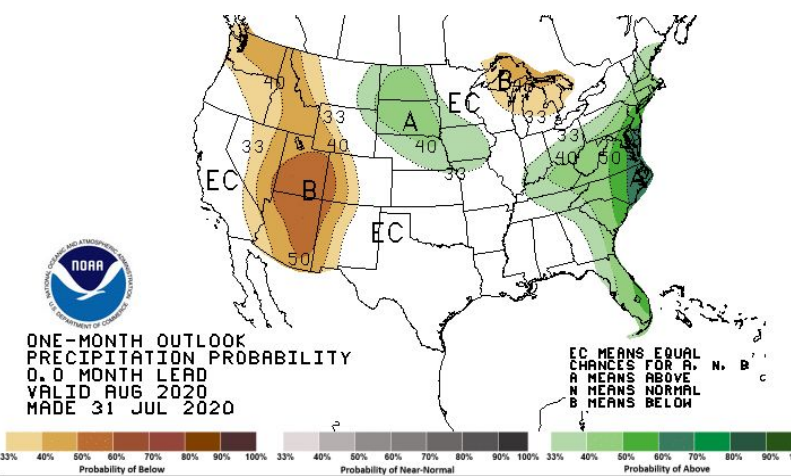
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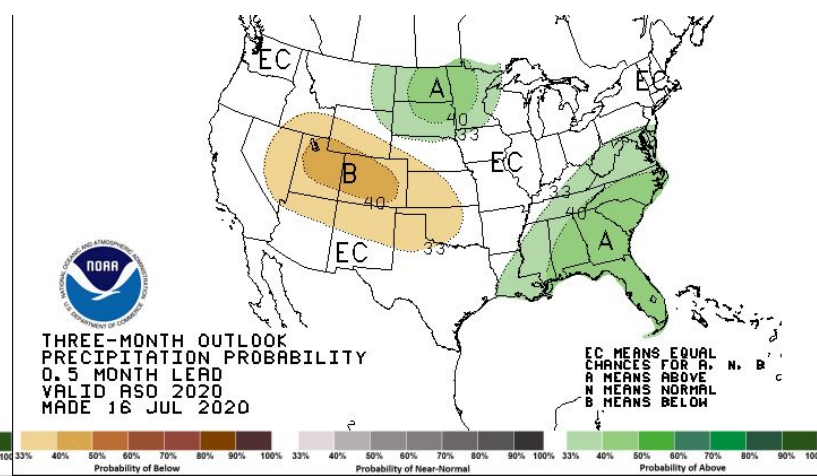
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Monsoon Outlook

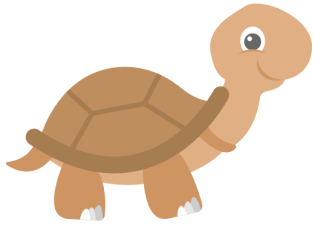
What happened to our Monsoon Season? That is a question on everyone’s mind, including ours. In southern Nevada, monsoon season typically begins around early July. However, in Arizona, the official start date is June 15. This year, Phoenix had its first measurable rainfall July 24 and up until the current date of August 5, has not recorded another drop. So what is going on? Typically, in the summer a high pressure will set up over the four-corners region of the southwest US. This will allow moisture from either the Gulf of Mexico or the Gulf of California to be pulled north or northwest. This moisture combined with hot temperatures usually leads to spectacular afternoon thunderstorms that can lead to very heavy rain and flash flooding. This year, the pattern has been dominated by troughs that have continued to dig over the eastern Pacific which in turn has kept the monsoonal moisture from creeping northward. So, are we going to see the monsoonal pattern set up this year? Here are a couple of charts from the Climate Prediction Center that indicates that the rest of the summer and into Fall could see below-normal precipitation. Does that mean we won’t see any thunderstorms or rain at all? No. It just means that this year is shaping up to be a below-normal monsoon season.



August Outlook



August, September, October Outlook



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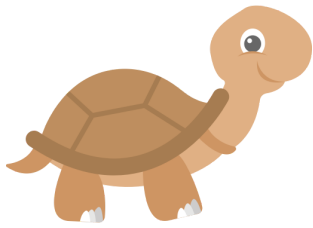
Submit your weather pictures and videos!

Do you have some awesome weather pictures you'd like to share with us? Send us your best weather photos and we will include them in our next newsletter article! Have a great weather video? We'd love to see those too! We're always looking for great footage to add to your library - who knows, maybe it'll end up in our next spotter presentation! Be sure to include the photographer/videographer's name so we can provide photo credit. Send us your photos and videos using this [Google Form \(click here\)](#).

Keep Track of the Weather With CoCoRaHS

Are you curious as to how much rain or snow falls each time a storm moves through the area? Do you have a rain gauge you frequently check for rain? If so, the National Weather Service in Las Vegas would like to encourage you to join CoCoRaHS, known as the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. This network allows you to report online how much rain or snow you may have received or even if you saw any hail. Additional comments on the weather in your area that day such as strong winds or storm reports such as flooding can also be submitted. Not only is this information useful to forecasters for verifying forecasts and warnings, but CoCoRaHS also keeps an online record of your reports. This data can then be sorted to compile totals for a given site or see how frequently you received rain or snow in a given time frame. All you have to do to join is visit <http://www.cocorahs.org/> and click on "Join CoCoRaHS" on the left sidebar menu and fill out a short form. Please contact Jennifer.Varian@noaa.gov or Andy.Gorelow@noaa.gov with any questions.





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Monsoon Season Word Search

S P D I E S V Y O S O C X A R F S H U I
 E U Y U S T E U G U I B R B L Z U L R W
 V T B Z S A I N W R R N A A X L L A A I
 Z U P M F T I L R A J A S H I P U N D N
 D D U N I N D U L I T H F G Y B M D A D
 T U X K R N S E L E F C H U R Y U S R J
 P Y I A B K O A V L T T H B D R C P E A
 H D W A U H U L O I N A N E F O O O H G
 T O R N A D O O U I L L S T S R T U A R
 G O D N U S D A N M I P S E C A L T B D
 J J A Y Q I U G G A U R I P F M A C O T
 S I P N N K A W H R U C Y P E I W H O A
 U I R G O K X A W B I Y C B V X Z L B A
 T P K A D Y K D O M G V V B J L U V I F
 A A Y Y R W U R L G Z Z I R C C C G V Q
 M P Q D F H C N M R O T S R E D N U H T
 M R A I N I X A X S H L N K M R K A D M
 A U R Y M A S R A Q R E P U T X J Q I F
 M P D U O L C L L A W N A E S L E U J I
 M L A D V I S O R I E S Z T A Y J K H Q

- ADVISORIES
- ALTOCUMULUS
- CIRRUS
- CUMULONIMBUS
- DUSTDEVIL
- FLASHFLOODING
- HABOOB
- HAIL
- HEAT
- LANDSPOUT
- LIGHTNING
- MAMMATUS
- MICROBURST
- RADAR
- RAIN
- SATELLITE
- SUNDOG
- THUNDERSTORM
- TORNADO
- VIRGA
- WALLCLOUD
- WARNINGS
- WATCHES
- WIND

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