

South Carolina State Climatology Office

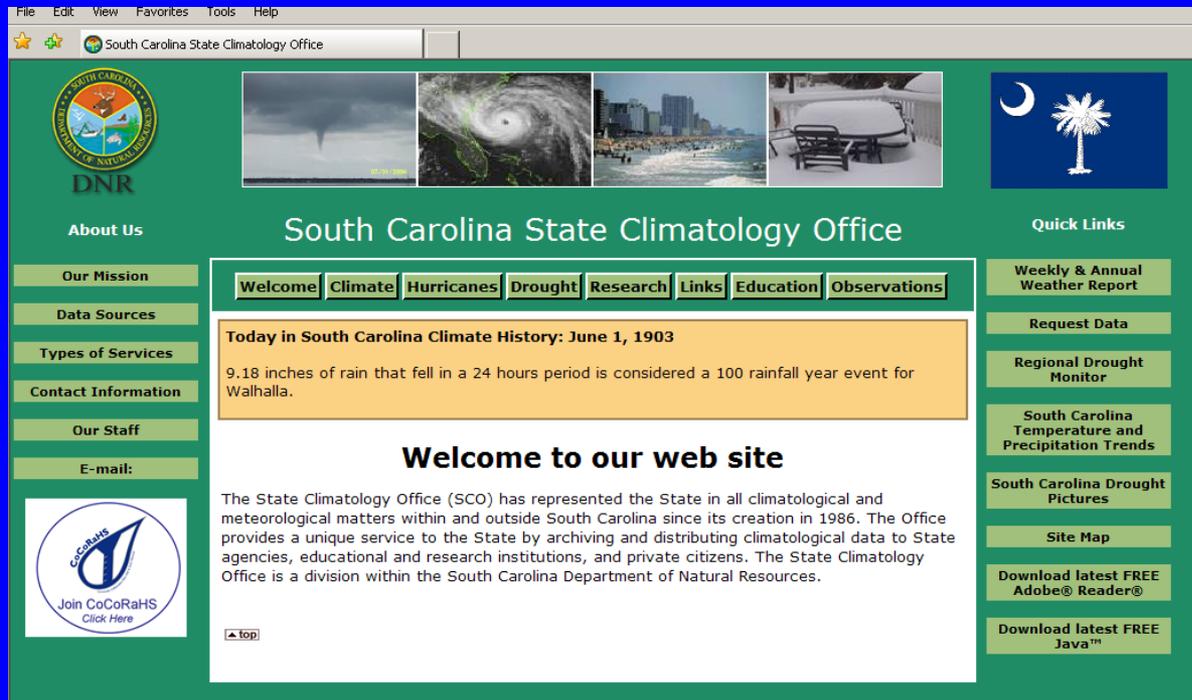


Hope Mizzell, Ph.D.
SC State Climatologist
Columbia, SC



Communication Capabilities

- Web site that serves as a clearinghouse for climate information



- Email notification system focused on severe weather notification
690 subscribers from federal, state and county agencies, municipalities, and school districts

Information Service

- Primary users
 - Lawyers
 - Insurance
 - Construction
 - Agriculture
 - County
 - State
 - Educators
 - Researchers
 - Media



The State.com
SOUTH CAROLINA'S HOME PAGE

Outreach

- Weekly and Annual Weather Report
- Provide approximately 50 presentations annually
- SC Wildlife Magazine
- Monthly climate segment on SC Educational Television show “Making It Grow”



Research



- Cooperating institution in Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments (CISA) project focused on integrating climate science and water management in North and South Carolina



- Strategies for Mitigating Drought: The Effectiveness of State and Local Drought Indicators



- ENSO, Climate Variability



- Tropical Precipitation Study



- Tornado Climatology



SOUTH CAROLINA TORNADOES 1950-2009



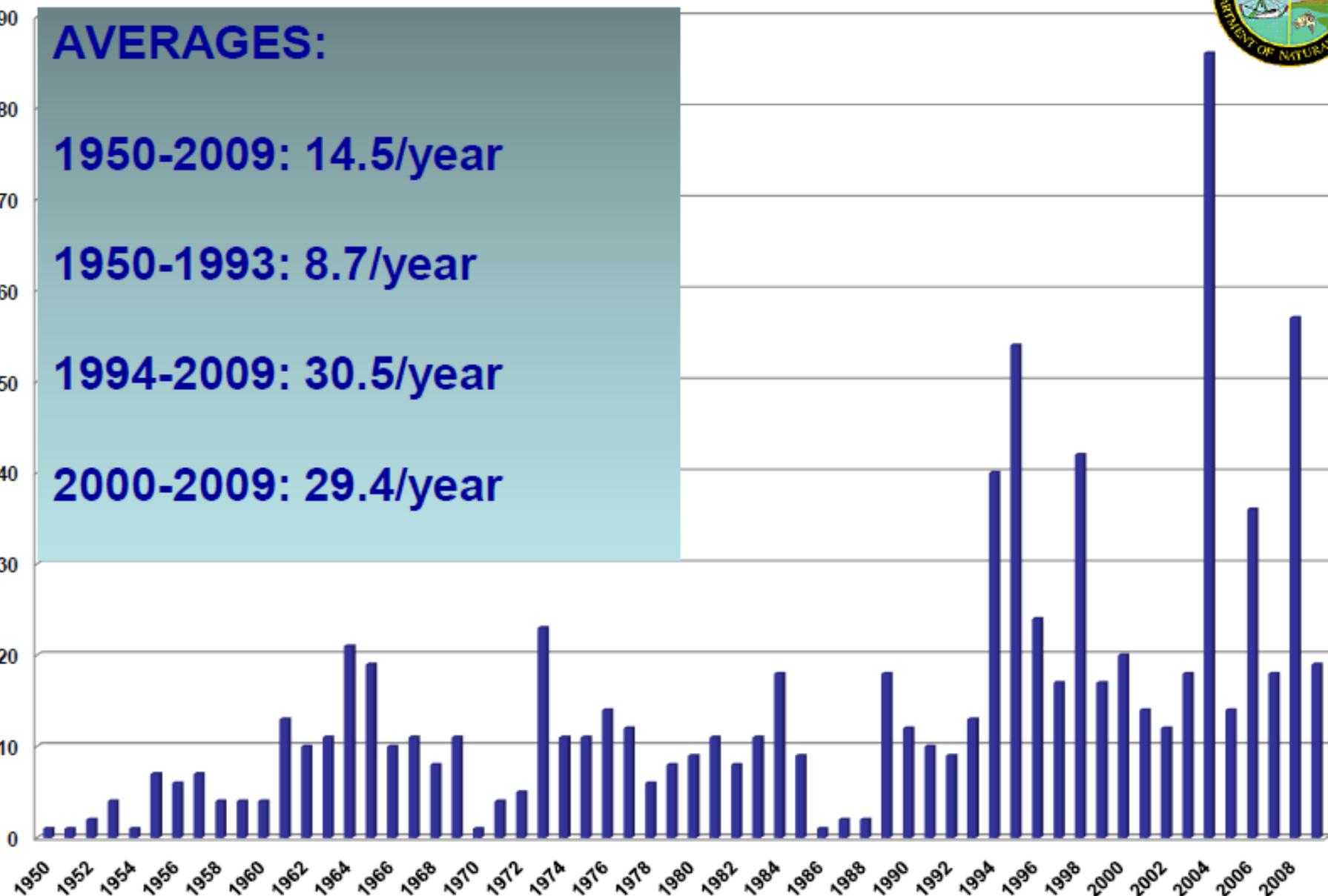
AVERAGES:

1950-2009: 14.5/year

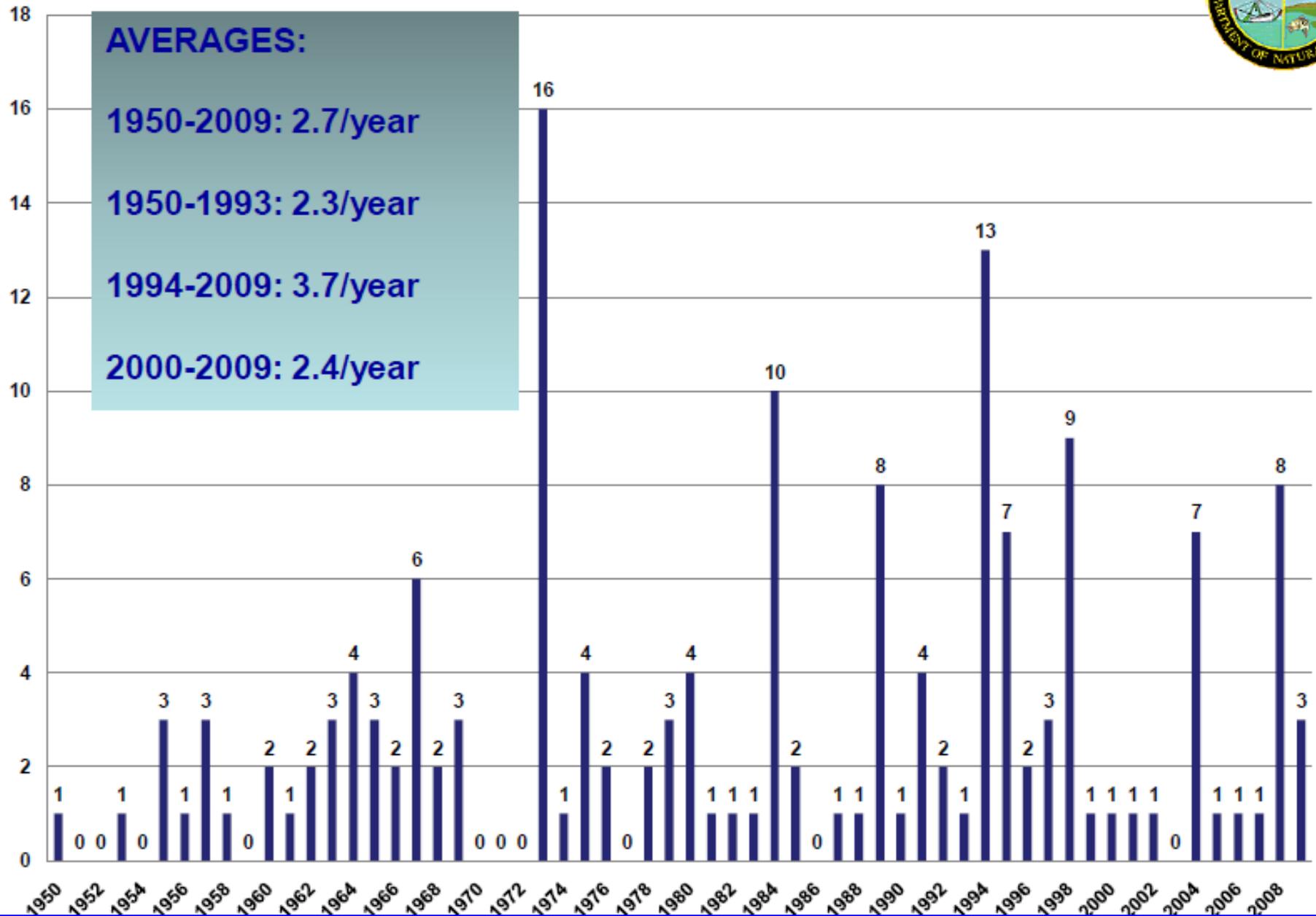
1950-1993: 8.7/year

1994-2009: 30.5/year

2000-2009: 29.4/year

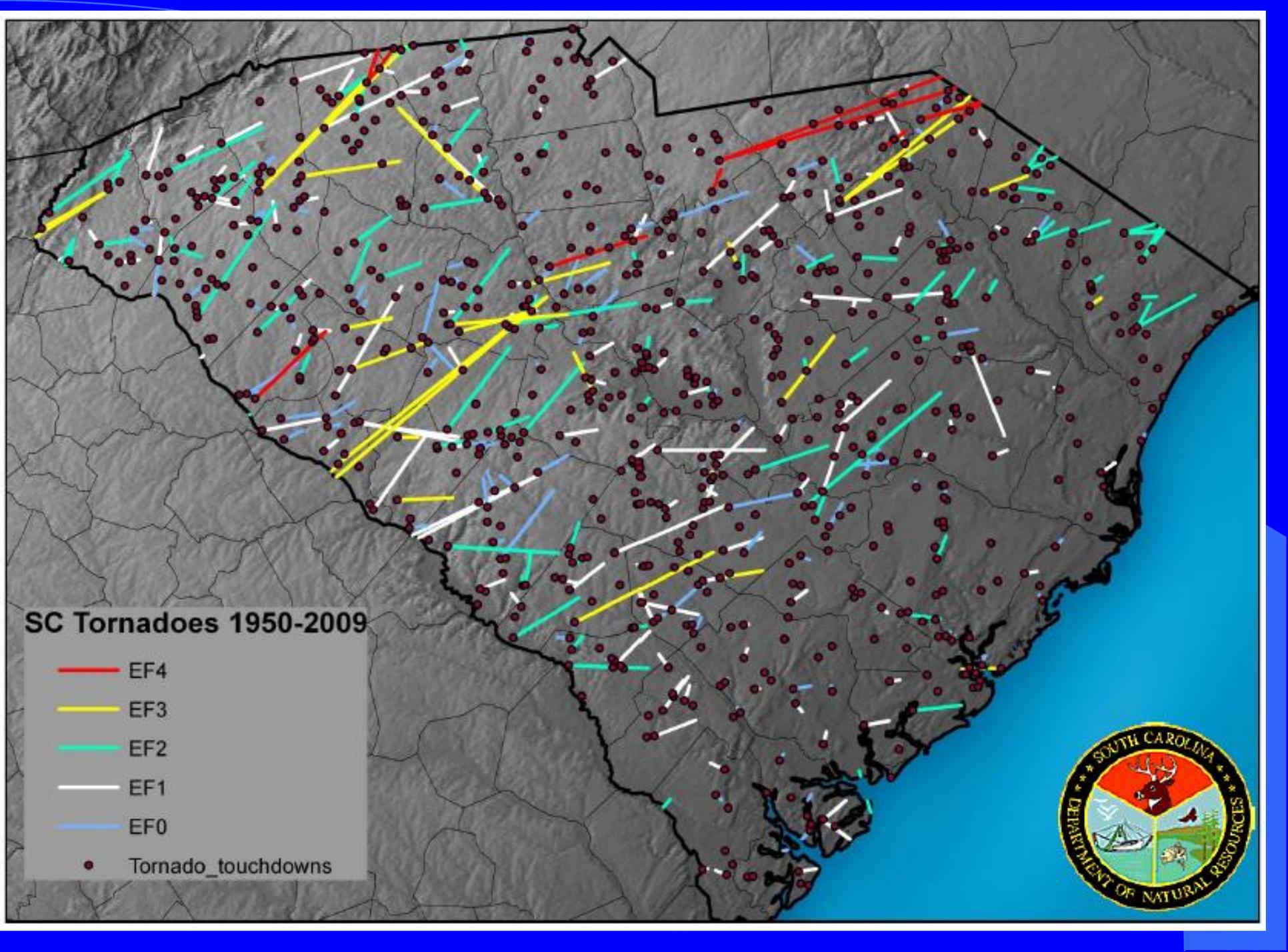


EF2, 3, 4 TORNADOES



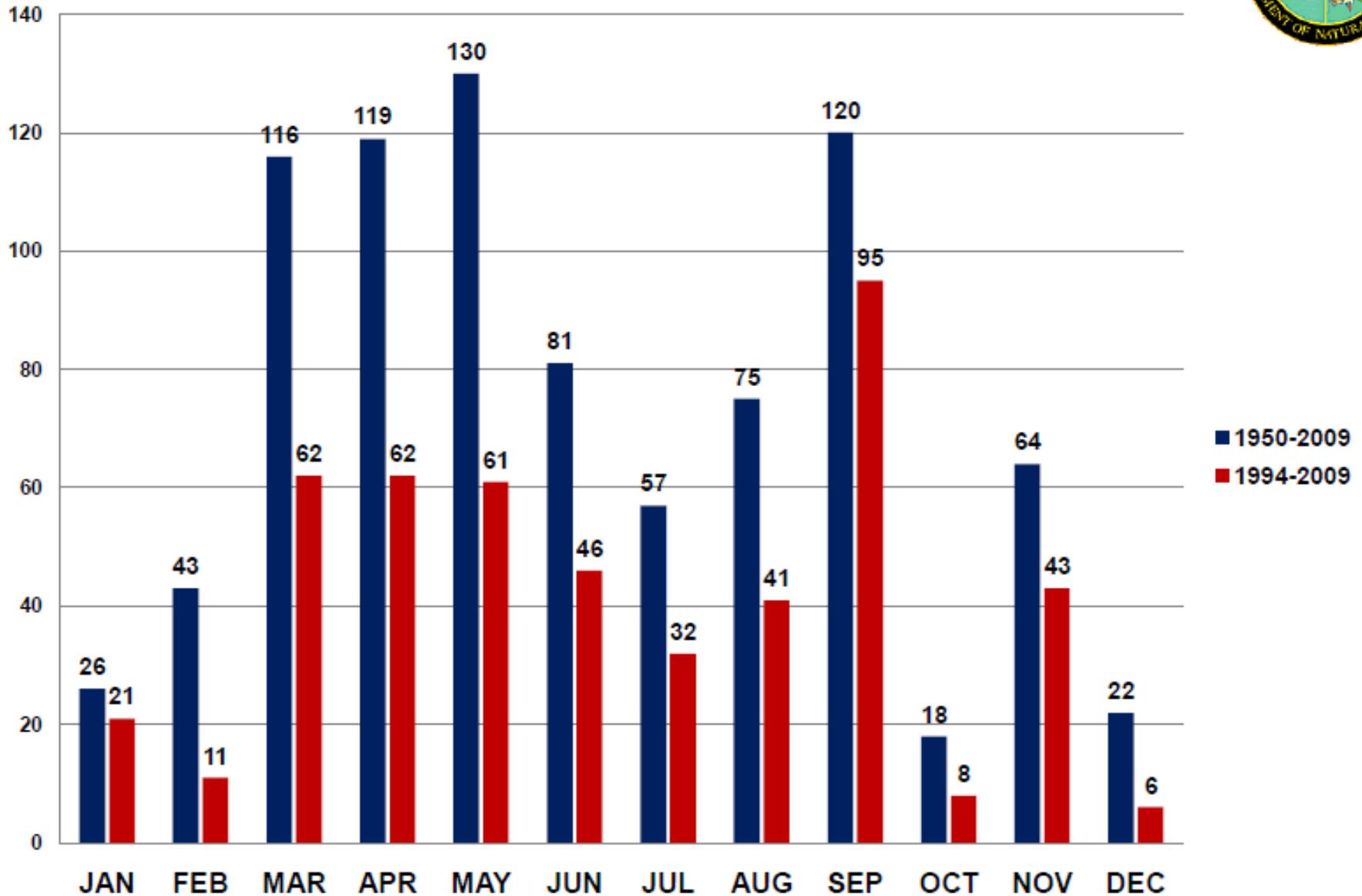
SC Tornadoes 1950-2009

- EF4
- EF3
- EF2
- EF1
- EF0
- Tornado_touchdowns





Monthly Tornado Distribution

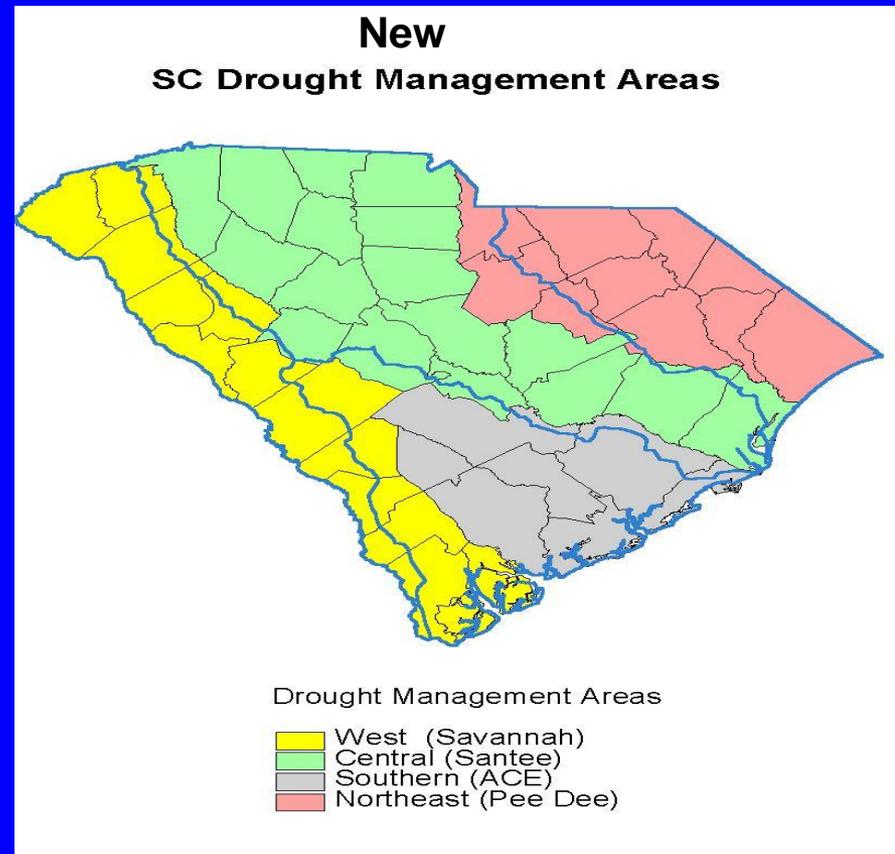


South Carolina Emergency Operations Center



SC Drought Response Act and Regulations

- Established procedures for monitoring, managing, and conserving water resources during periods of drought





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Today in South Carolina Climate History: June 1, 1903

9.18 inches of rain that fell in a 24 hours period is considered a 100 rainfall year event for Walhalla.

Welcome to our web site

The State Climatology Office (SCO) has represented the State in all climatological and meteorological matters within and outside South Carolina since its creation in 1986. The Office provides a unique service to the State by archiving and distributing climatological data to State agencies, educational and research institutions, and private citizens. The State Climatology Office is a division within the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

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South Carolina Climate

Section	Section	Section	Section
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CLIMATE CONTROL

Several factors control the climate. Most important are the state's location in the northern mid-latitudes, its proximity to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Appalachian Mountains, and elevation.

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The state's position on the eastern coast of a continent is important because land and water heat and cool at different

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Beaufort County

Temperature Summary (1899-2009)

Highest Maximum: 108 F, June 3, 1985; Yemassee
 Lowest Minimum: 0 F, January 21, 1985; Yemassee
 Annual Average: 1971-2000 Beaufort
 Maximum: 74.8 F
 Mean: 65.6 F
 Minimum: 56.4 F

Extreme Events (*Data through October 2009)

Precipitation

Highest Daily Rainfall: 10.84 inches,
 Annual Average Rainfall: 49.78 inches
 Wettest Year: 81.55 inches, 1964
 Driest Year: 22.27 inches, 1934
 Highest Daily Snowfall: 5 inches, De

- 21 Tornadoes
- Tornado damage: \$1.27 million
- 5 Tornado related injuries
- 1 Tornado related fatality
- 149 Wind events (winds exceeding 50 knots or 58 miles per hour)
- 80 Hail events
- 35 Lightning events
- 15 Lightning related injuries
- 4 Lightning related fatalities



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Weather Facts and Summaries - A collection of facts and summaries from previous South Carolina Weather Calendars.

From the 2008 Weather Calendar

[Winter Precipitation \(PDF\)](#)

[Cooperative Weather Observers \(PDF\)](#)

[Early Season Hurricanes \(PDF\)](#)

[New Tornado Rating System \(PDF\)](#)

[Hurricanes Preparation \(PDF\)](#)

[Hydropower and South Carolina's Water Resources \(PDF\)](#)

[Lightning \(PDF\)](#)

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[South Carolina Salutes its Cooperative Weather Observers \(PDF\)](#)

[Sea Breeze: Science at the Beach \(PDF\)](#)

[Tornado! \(PDF\)](#)

From the 2007 Weather Calendar

[Winter Weather Hazards \(PDF\)](#)

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[Flood Waters \(PDF\)](#)

[2005 Hurricane Season \(PDF\)](#)

[Conserving Wetlands \(PDF\)](#)

[Fog \(PDF\)](#)

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[Heat Waves \(PDF\)](#)

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HURRICANE AWARENESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA



Hurricane season begins on June 1 and continues through November 30 each year. To coincide with the start of the Atlantic Basin tropical season, South Carolina Hurricane Awareness Week is typically observed during the last week of May. Although this period is the predominant time of year for hurricanes to occur in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, tropical storms can and have formed in every month of the calendar year.

The risk of an impact of tropical cyclones in South Carolina ranks near the top in a vulnerability assessment of natural hazards. Although only 6 of 46 counties are along the immediate coastline of South Carolina, another 21 inland counties are at risk from the effects of tropical cyclones due to their low elevations and proximity to the Atlantic Ocean. The ever-growing coastal population and summer tourism industry create a great risk for the possibility of lost lives and property. Remember that the risks of high winds, tornadoes, and flooding from tropical rainfall threaten all regions of the state from the coast to the mountains. Last year, the remnants of Hurricane Frances spawned 47 tornadoes, primarily in the Midlands, while Gaston dumped up to 15 inches of rain in the northern coastal plain.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) offers a comprehensive South Carolina Hurricane Guide each year with valuable information on evacuation routes, shelter locations, preparedness tips, and general information on hurricanes and tropical storms. The guide can be accessed through their home page (www.scecmd.org). To prepare for the tropical activity in 2006, the South Carolina State Climatology Office offers a set of preparedness tips and important details on the emergency notification system used by the National Weather Service. (See sidebars.)

As a tropical cyclone approaches land, knowing the status of watches and warnings for your area is crucial to ensure safety and limit the loss of life and property along the coast. The National Hurricane Center uses the following chart to identify the proper advisory based on the length of time before conditions deteriorate and the intensity of the storm upon impact.



TROPICAL STORM WATCH:

Tropical Storm conditions (winds \geq 39 mph) are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 36 hours.

TROPICAL STORM WARNING:

Tropical Storm conditions (winds \geq 39 mph) are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 24 hours.

HURRICANE WATCH:

Hurricane conditions (winds \geq 74 mph) are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 36 hours. During a Hurricane Watch, prepare to take immediate action to protect your family and property in case a Hurricane Warning is issued.

HURRICANE WARNING:

Hurricane conditions (winds \geq 74 mph) are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 24 hours. Complete all storm preparations and evacuate if directed by local officials.

Once the National Hurricane Center issues a watch or warning for your area, the emergency notification is sent out through radio and television stations as part of the Emergency Alert System. The list of the key participants in South Carolina (shown below) was provided by SCEMD in the 2005 South Carolina Hurricane Guide.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION RADIO AND TELEVISION PARTICIPANTS

Charleston
WNKT 107.5 FM
WEZL 103.5 FM

Grand Strand
WKZQ 101.7 FM
WSYN 106.5 FM

Florence
WJMX 103.3 FM
WYNN 106.3 FM

Upstate
WFBC 93.7 FM
WESC 92.5 FM

Aiken/Augusta
WBBQ 104.3 FM
WZNY 105.7 FM

Columbia
WCOS 97.5 FM
WTCB 106.7 FM
WLTR 91.3 FM (public radio)

York
WAGI 105.3 FM
WNSC 88.9 FM

S.C. Educational Radio Network
WLTR 91.3 FM (Columbia)
WSCI 89.3 FM (Charleston)
WRJA 88.1 FM (Sumter/Columbia)
WNSC 88.9 FM (Rock Hill)
WJWJ 89.9 FM (Beaufort/Hilton Head)
WEPR 90.1 FM (Greenville/Spartanburg)
WHMC 90.1 FM (Conway/Myrtle Beach)
WLJK 89.1 FM (Aiken)



HURRICANE AWARENESS TIPS

Make a disaster kit that includes items such as non-perishable food, batteries, radio, flashlight, water, medicines, clothes, blankets, and a first aid kit. Pack some cash and a credit card for necessary purchases in the coming days when you may be evacuated. Make sure to take this with you if you do evacuate.

Check your insurance on your home. Flooding is not usually covered on homeowners' policies. Purchase a specific flood insurance policy if you live in an area subject to damage from rising waters.

Prepare your home by boarding windows, removing loose items from the yard, and moving boats inland off the waters. Do this well before even a voluntary evacuation is in effect.

Upon a voluntary evacuation, prepare to leave immediately. It is recommended to leave before a mandatory evacuation is in place to prevent travel delays and highway congestion. When a mandatory evacuation is ordered, LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. Pack your essentials from the disaster kit and travel inland.

Keep a NOAA Weather Radio with you. The National Weather Service will broadcast local information on the threatening storm along with watches, warnings, and advisories for winds, floods and other severe weather that will affect you.

Remember: Although storm surge and wind are usually confined to the immediate coastal regions, inland areas where you find shelter are also under the threat of significant weather including rainfall-induced floods, tornadoes, and high winds. Downed trees and powerlines present a new set of challenges upon re-entry into storm-ravaged areas. Take proper precautions to avoid electric shock. Contact the proper utility company and stay clear of the danger.

Using a generator in an enclosed room, such as a garage or home, can cause carbon monoxide poisoning, which can lead to significant health problems and possibly death. The generator should be used outside in a well-ventilated area.

THE NEW TORNADO RATING SYSTEM

The Enhanced Fujita Scale

The Enhanced Fujita Scale (EF) to rate tornadoes went into effect on February 1, 2007. The original Fujita Scale (F) was developed in 1971 by Dr. T. Theodore Fujita. Over the years, National Weather Service personnel recognized that improvements to the scale were necessary due to some limitations. The primary limitations were the lack of damage indicators, no account of construction quality and variability, and no definitive correlation between damage and wind speed. This sometimes resulted in inconsistent ratings of tornadoes and in some cases an overestimate of tornado wind speeds.

The Enhanced Fujita Scale is a more precise way to assess the damage from a tornado. It classifies tornado damage (EF0-EF5) as calibrated by those from the meteorological and engineering communities. The proposal was led by the Texas Tech University Wind Science and Engineering Research Center. The Enhanced Fujita Scale is a set of wind estimates, not measurements, based on damage. It uses a three-second gust estimated at the point of damage. The damage is based on a judgment of up to 12 levels of damage or Degrees of Damage (DOD) to 28 Damage Indicators (DI). Examples of Damage Indicators are buildings, structures, and trees. By observing the Degree of Damage to each Indicator, the person conducting the survey can assign an estimate of wind speed. The estimated wind speed then determines the EF-Scale category appropriate for the observed damage.

—Leonard Vaughan, National Weather Service Meteorologist

Table 3.

Enhanced F Scale for Tornado Damage						
Fujita scale		Derived EF scale		Operational EF scale		
F Number	Fastest 1/4-mile (mph)	3 Second Gust (mph)	EF Number	3 Second Gust (mph)	EF Number	3 Second Gust (mph)
0	40-72	45-78	0	65-85	0	65-85
1	73-112	79-117	1	86-109	1	86-110
2	113-157	118-161	2	110-137	2	111-135
3	158-207	162-209	3	138-167	3	136-165
4	208-260	210-261	4	168-199	4	166-200
5	261-318	262-317	5	200-234	5	Over 200

How Strong Was That Tornado?

These pictures are from an actual tornado that hit a double-wide mobile home in South Carolina.

1. The observer would determine the type of structure damaged based on Table 1. Table 1 only shows a partial list of the 28 structure types. This tornado hit a double-wide mobile home.
2. The observer would determine the degree of damage based on Table 2. In this example complete destruction occurred to the mobile home, which has winds estimated between 110 mph and 148 mph. The observer used his or her judgement and estimated winds near the upper bound of 148 mph.
3. The observer now takes the 148 mph and rates the tornado using the Enhanced Fujita Scale shown in Table 3. According to the Operational EF Scale, 3 second gust, 148 mph is an EF3 Tornado!



Important: The 3 second gust is not the same wind as in standard surface observations. Standard measurements are taken by weather stations in open exposures, using a directly measured "one minute mile" speed.

Table 1. Structure damage indicator

Enhanced F Scale Damage Indicators		
Number (Details Linked)	Damage Indicator	Abbreviation
1	Small barns, farm outbuildings	SBO
2	One- or two-family residences	FR12
3	Single-wide mobile home (MHSW)	MHSW
4	Double-wide mobile home	MHDW
5	Apt, condo, townhouse (3 stories or less)	ACT
24	Transmission line tower	TLT
25	Free-standing tower	FST
26	Free standing pole (light, flag, luminaire)	FSP
27	Tree - hardwood	TH
28	Tree - softwood	TS

Table 2.

DOD* Degree of Damage Scale			
DOD*	Damage description	Expected wind (mph)	Upper bound of wind (mph)
1	Threshold of visible damage	61	76
2	Loss of shingles or partial uplift of one-piece metal roof covering	74	92
3	Unit slides off block piers but remains upright	87	103
4	Complete uplift of roof; most walls remain standing	89	112
5	Unit rolls on its side or upside down; remains essentially intact	98	114
6	Destruction of roof and walls leaving floor and undercarriage in place	105	123
7	Unit rolls or vaults; roof and walls separate from floor and undercarriage	109	128
8	Undercarriage separates from unit, rolls, tumbles and is badly bent	118	136
9	Complete destruction of unit; debris blown away	127	148



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Temperature and Precipitation data 1901-2005

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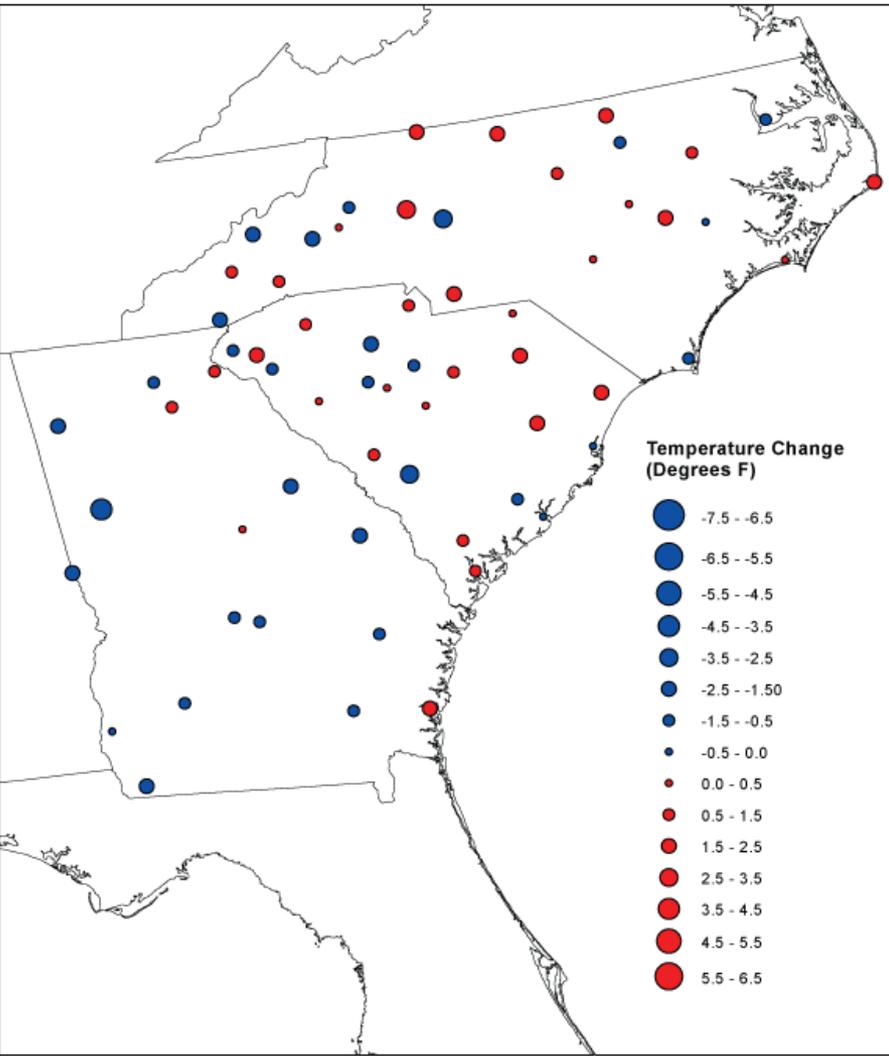
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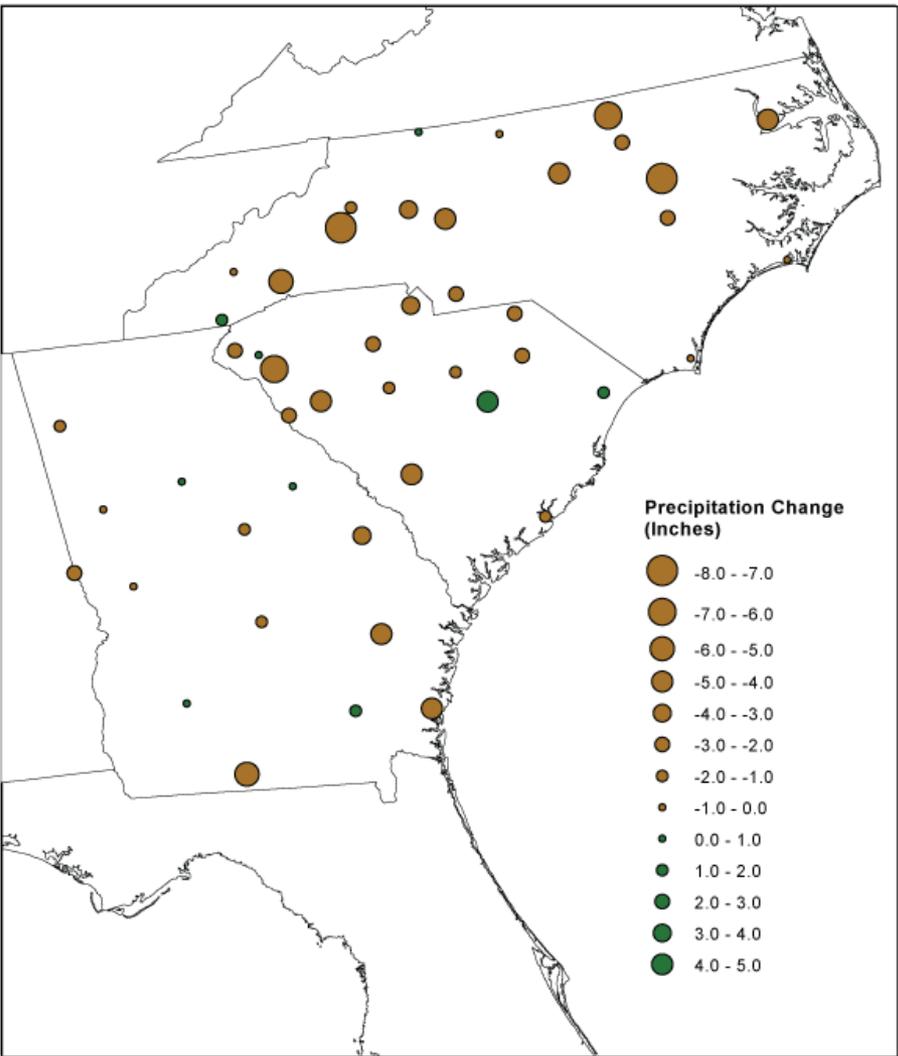
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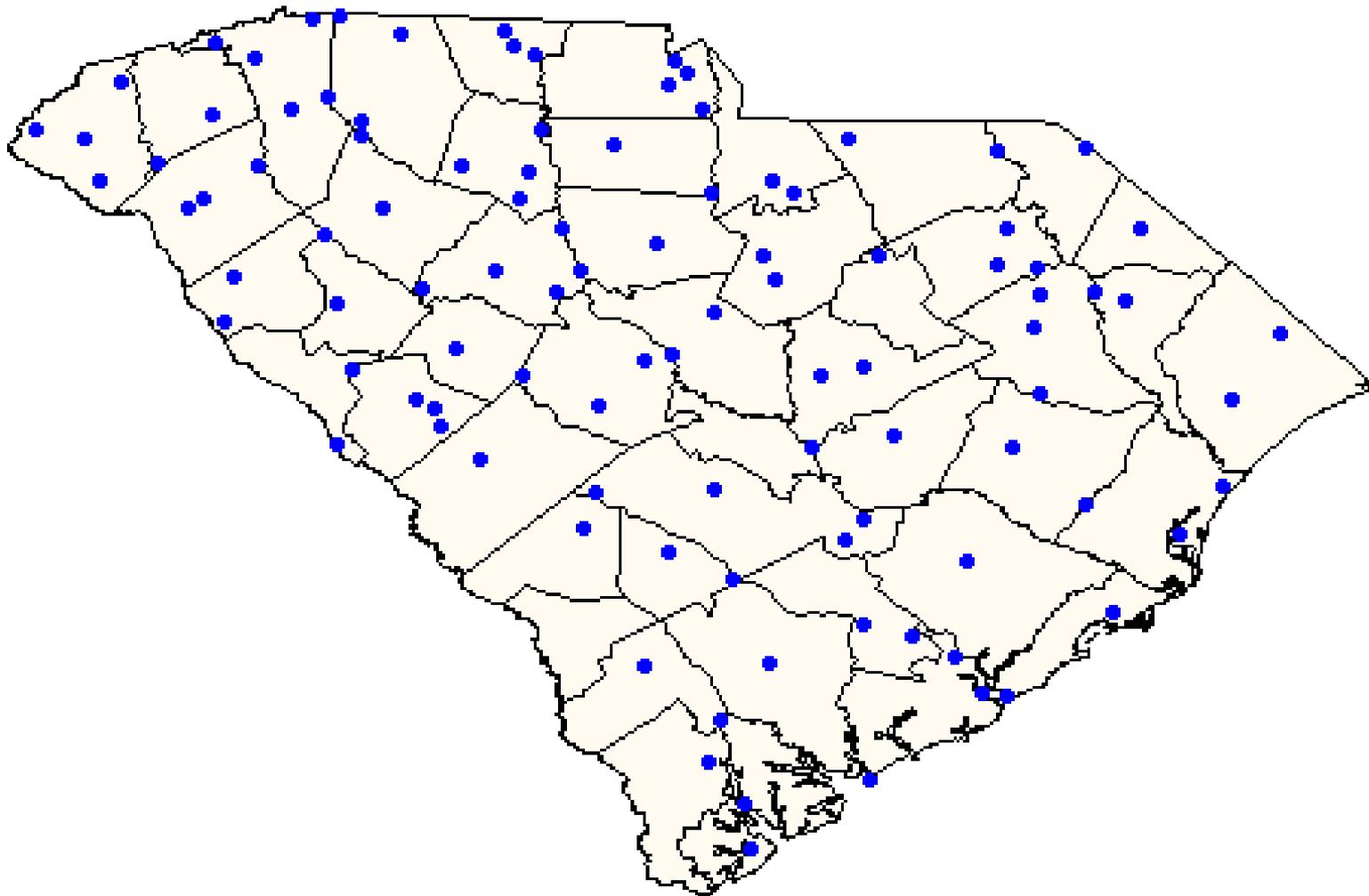
Summer Avg Mean Temperature Change 1901 - 2005



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SC Cooperative Weather Observer Stations





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Seasonal Rankings

Station: EDISTO ISLAND

State: SC

ID: 382730

Latitude: 32.51 degrees Longitude: -80.29 degrees Elevation: 5 feet

Station period of record: 08/01/1956 - 06/01/2010

CLIMOD Product: Seasonal Rankings

Creation Time: 06/01/2010 22:51 EDT

Element: Precipitation Units: inch

Analysis: Sum

Season: 6/1 - 6/30

Period of analysis: 1957 - 2009

Rank	Value	Year	Number of Missing Values				
1	0.45	1996	0	20	4.07	2007	0
2	0.86	1978	0	21	4.08	1965	0
3	1.25	1970	0	22	4.23	1961	0
4	1.52	1969	0	23	4.41	2008	2
5	1.63	1977	0	24	4.77	1971	0
6	1.64	2000	0	25	4.86	1995	0
7	1.98	1990	0	26	5.35	1984	0
8	2.14	1980	0	27	5.38	1994	0
9	2.33	1988	0	28	5.58	1985	0
10	2.38	1979	0	29	6.01	1968	0
11	2.84	2009	0	30	6.08	2003	0
12	2.86	1998	0	31	6.18	1989	0
13	3.18	1986	0	32	6.53	1997	0
14	3.18	1987	0	33	7.07	1981	0
15	3.29	1983	0	34	7.62	1999	0
16	3.63	1959	0	35	8.81	1963	0
17	3.83	1993	0	36	9.24	1957	0
18	3.98	1972	0	37	9.88	2002	3
19	3.98	1958	0	38	10.97	1982	0
				Average	4.42		

Years excluded because of more than 10% missing days (number of missing days are in parentheses): 2006 (30), 2005 (30), 1992 (30), 1991 (30), 1975 (30), 1974 (30), 1973 (30), 1967 (30), 1966 (30), 1964 (30), 1962 (30), 1976 (20), 1960 (7), 2004 (16), 2001 (4).



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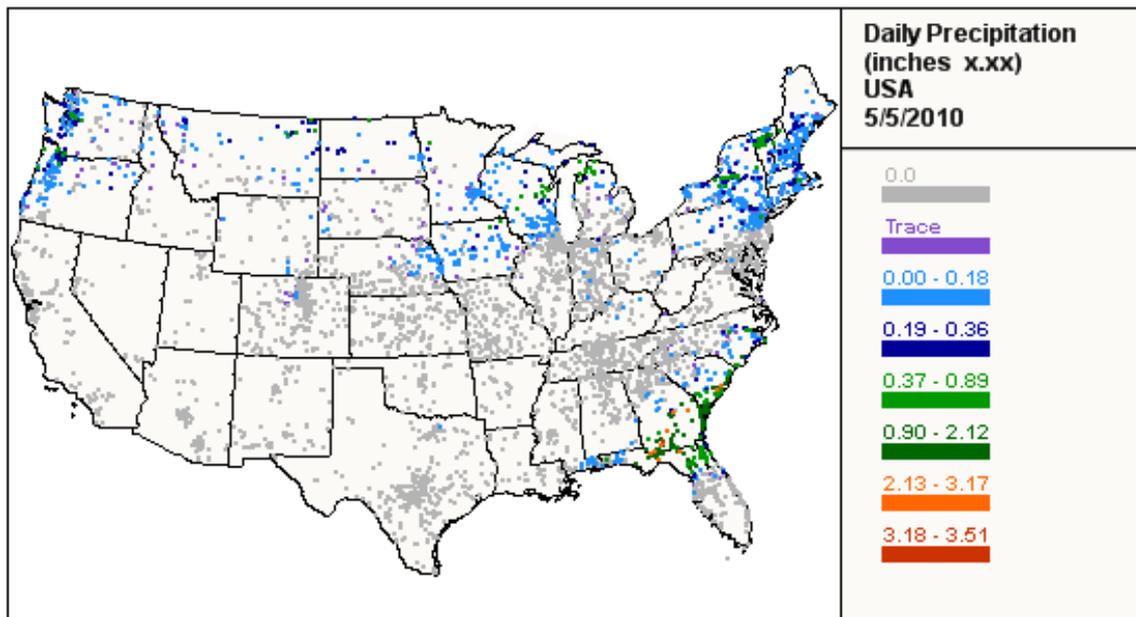
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Welcome to CoCoRaHS! "Volunteers working together to measure precipitation across the nation."

Has your community been

IMPACTED BY DROUGHT?

Tell us by submitting a "CoCoRaHS Drought Impact Report"





COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK

"Because every drop counts"

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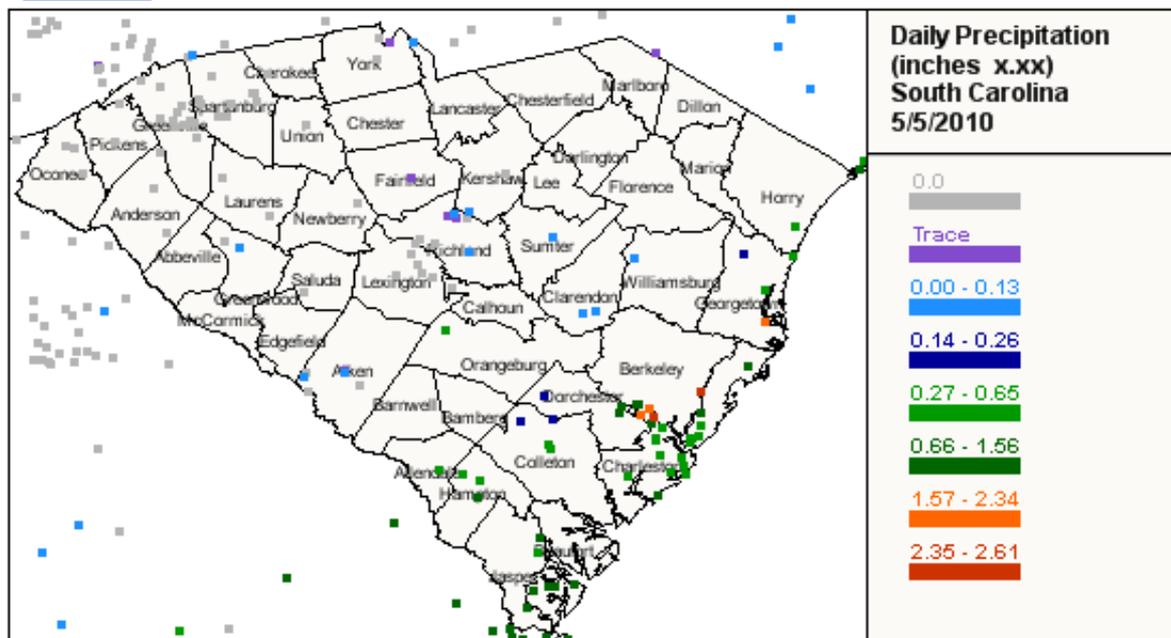
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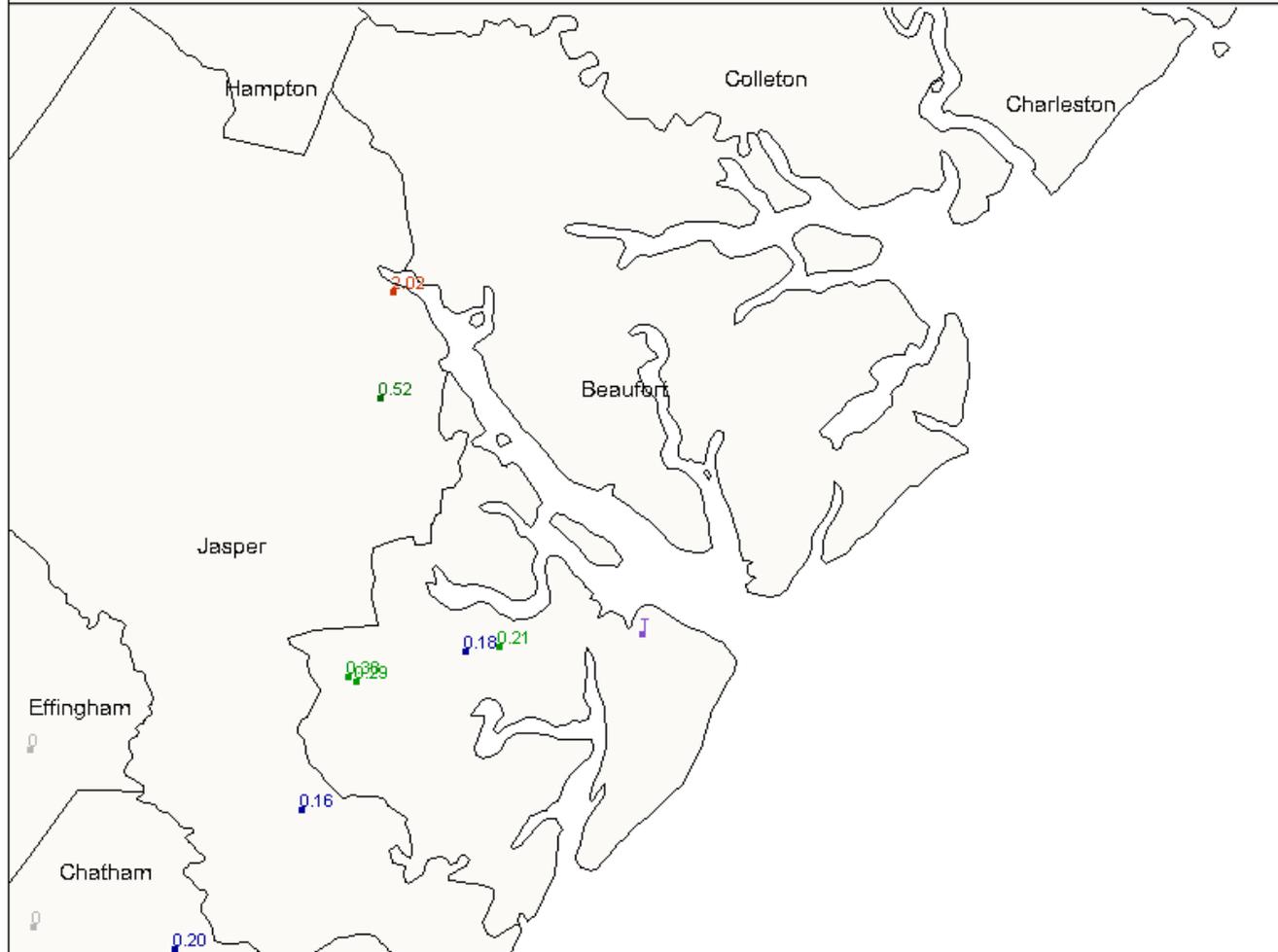
**COCORAHS
SOUTH CAROLINA**



Daily Precipitation (inches x.xx), for the 24 hour period ending ~7:00 am

Beaufort County, South Carolina 5/31/2010

0.0 Trace 0.01 - 0.10 0.11 - 0.20 0.21 - 0.50 0.51 - 1.21 1.22 - 1.82 1.83 - 2.02





Thank You

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/climate/sco>

**Hope Mizzell
State Climatologist
803-734-9568**

**Mark Malsick
Severe Weather Liaison
734-0039**

**Wes Tyler
Service Climatologist
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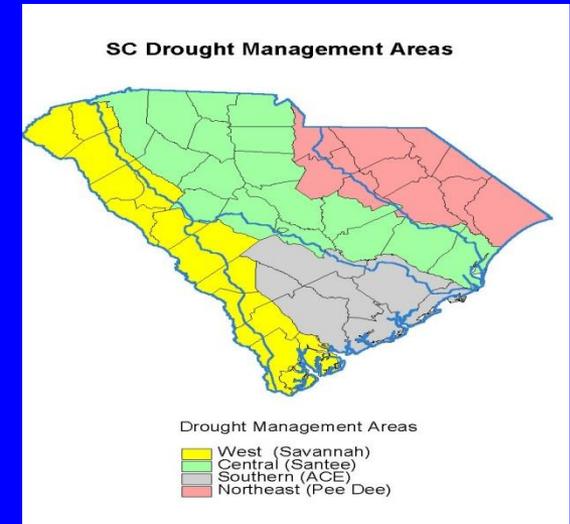




South Carolina Drought Response Committee

Statewide Committee Members

SC Dept. of Natural Resources
SC Emergency Management Division
SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
SC Department of Agriculture
SC Forestry Commission



Local Committee Members

Agriculture
Counties
Commissions of Public Works
Power Generation Facilities
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Municipalities
Domestic users
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Special Purpose Districts