



CENTRAL ILLINOIS LINCOLN LOGS

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WINTER 2000

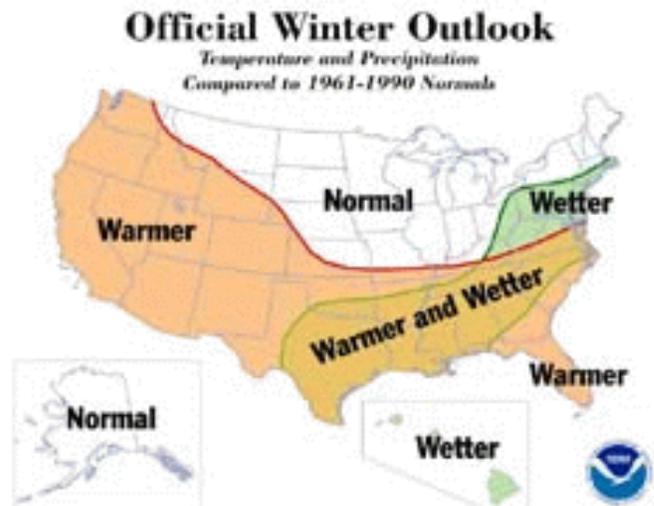
Winter Weather Preparedness Week

November 26th through December 2nd, 2000

Winter Weather Preparedness

There is a chill in the air now...so it won't be long before winter weather is upon us and we should be prepared for it. The State of Illinois will hold its annual Winter Weather Preparedness Week from November 26th to December 2nd. One of the purposes of this week is to raise the public awareness with regards to what constitutes winter weather and what to do to prepare for it.

The National Weather Service just released its forecast for the upcoming winter season. The forecast for the midwest is near normal temperatures



and precipitation for the entire region. The forecast for the whole country can be accessed at... www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories/s512.htm

In this issue...

| | |
|--|---|
| Winter Weather Preparedness . . . | 1 |
| Winter Weather Definitions | 2 |
| Winter Weather Attire | 3 |
| NOAA Weather Radio Expansion News | 3 |
| The DAPM Corner | 3 |
| Data Quality Control | 4 |

IEMA, Red Cross, and National Weather Service have internet homepages which have more in-depth information concerning winter weather preparedness. The internet addresses are:

IEMA
www.state.il.us/iema/

Red Cross
www.redcross.org/index.shtml

National Weather Service
www.nws.noaa.gov/om/wnttrstm.htm

Operation Ice Pack
www.icepack.org/

Latest Winter Watches and Warnings
iwin.nws.noaa.gov/iwin/il/winterstorm.html

Winter Weather Definitions

Warnings:

Blizzard - The following conditions are expected to prevail for a period of 3 hours or longer: sustained wind or frequent gusts to 35 mph and considerable falling and/or blowing snow reducing visibilities to less than a 1/4 mile.

Winter Storm - More than one of the following hazardous winter weather conditions is occurring, imminent, or highly likely.

Heavy Snow - Snowfall accumulating to 6 inches in 12 hours or 8 inches in 24 hours.

Ice Storm - Ice accumulations of 1/4 or more during a freezing rain event.

Sleet - Accumulation of 1/2 inch or more of sleet.

Advisories:

Winter Weather - More than one of the following winter weather situations is occurring, expected, or highly probable causing significant inconveniences but do not meet warning criteria.

Snow - Issued for 3 to 5 inches of

snow or an early season snow of 2 inches.

Blowing Snow - Visibility is intermittently 1/4 mile or less with sustained winds of 25 to 30 mph.

Snow and Blowing Snow - A combination of the 2 above.

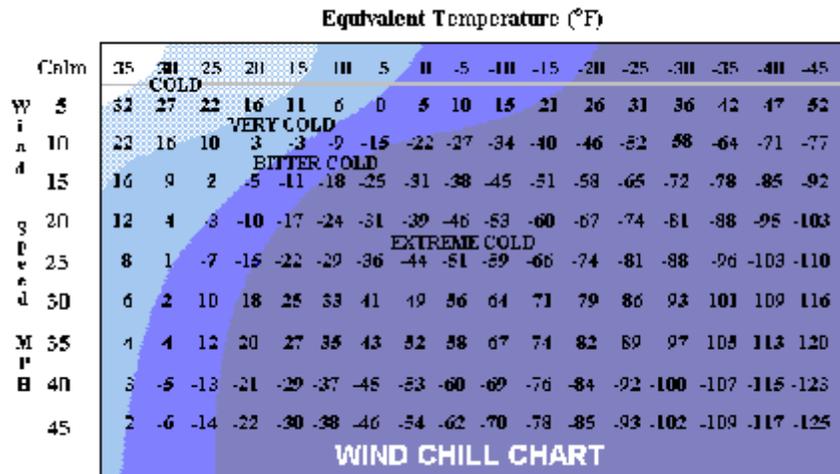
Freezing Drizzle/Rain - Ice accumulations cause driving or walking problems but no damage to trees or power lines (less than 1/4 inch accumulation).

Sleet - Less than 1/2 inch accumulation of sleet.

Wind Chill - Based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by combined effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at a faster rate, driving down the body temperature. (See Wind Chill Chart below)

Wind Chill Warning - Wind chill values drop to -50 degrees or below.

Wind Chill Advisory - Wind chill values drop to between -30 and -49 degrees.



Winter Weather Attire

Recommended winter attire is loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers. Also, wear a hat, scarf, mittens, and wool socks. This will help to prevent frostbite or hypothermia. Do not stay outside for extended periods!

If Caught in a Winter Storm...

Outside:

1. Find shelter and stay dry.
2. If no shelter - prepare a lean-to, build a fire.
3. Do not eat snow.

In a car or truck:

1. Stay in your car or truck.
2. Run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat.
3. Make yourself visible to rescuers.
4. Exercise.

At home or in a building:

1. Stay inside.
2. Keep warm.
3. Eat and drink.
4. Wear layers of loose-fitting, light-weight, warm clothing.

Station KXI-48 in Newton (162.450 MHz) went online October 20th, and KXI-49 in Salem (162.475 MHz) came online on the 24th, both transmitting at 1,000 watts. New stations in the Chicago area (KXI-41 in Crystal Lake and KXI-58 in Plano) were activated in early October, and stations near Paris, Shelbyville, Watseka, McLeansboro, Coffeen and Chester should be online before the end of the year.

The NWR hardware at the NWS offices has not kept up with the transmitter installations. This has caused some stations to be “slaved” off existing stations temporarily. For example, the Jacksonville NWR has shared programming with Springfield since its installation last spring, and the Salem transmitter went online using St. Louis’s broadcast program. New hardware should be arriving at the NWS offices shortly, allowing each transmitter to have its own broadcast program.

Measurements of the signal patterns will be done for each station, in order to determine exact coverage areas. In some cases, there may be overlap between adjacent NWR’s, allowing a particular county to pick which station to hear coverage. The NWS Lincoln home page has a listing of what radio(s) are served by each county. This listing can be found at

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ilx/nwr/nwrcover.htm>

NOAA Weather Radio Expansion News

By Chris Geelhart, NOAA Weather Radio Program
Leader

As reported in the fall issue of Lincoln Logs, expansion of the NOAA Weather Radio network has progressed this year. Our latest achievements were covering large gaps in south central and southeast Illinois.

The DAPM Corner

by Billy Ousley, Data Acquisition Program Manager

Greetings Coop Observers! As always, thanks for your hard work and dedication in support of the Central Illinois Cooperative Observer Program. The National Weather Service (NWS) truly does recognize Cooperative Program in Central Illinois as one of the best in the region. I will be bringing up some winter weather reminders and Quality Control

techniques in this newsletter but would first like to re-introduce some of the people with whom you communicate your daily observations here at the office on daily basis.

The Central Illinois NWS staff involved with the Cooperative Observation program include:

- Billy Ousley - Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM) - Oversees the program
- Tom Frieders - Lead Forecaster and Hydrology focal point
- Matt Barnes - Intern (Does quality control of all forms as well as makes visits)
- Lonnie Fisher - Intern (Does quality control of all forms as well as makes visits)
- John Parr - HMT (Does quality control of F&P sites, as well as visits and repairs)
- Chris Geelhart - HMT (Does visits/ repairs, plus maintains our database of observers)
- Dan Kelly -Intern (Does visits and repairs of sites)

For further information about the staff, you may visit our website. While there you can read our "bios" and look at our "pics". Hopefully, the "bios" and "pics" will not scare you away.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know and I will ensure that we do all we can to support you. Now, let's get started!

Winter around the corner??!!

Yes, soon we will seeing the white stuff on a regular basis. When this happens, it is important to make sure that the data is being recorded and sent properly as well. Remember that:

1. Liquid Precipitation(or water equivalent) is always to the nearest 0.01 (hundredth)
2. 24 snowfall is recorded to the nearest 0.1 (tenth)

3. Snow depth at time of observation is always to the nearest 1.0 (inch).
4. Snow depth is always rounded up to the nearest inch if ½ inch or more. If less than a ½ inch, then round down. Ie: 2.4" is snow depth of 2", 2.5" is snow depth of 3".
5. Snow depth remains a trace until you have at least 0.5" (½") on the ground.

Did you know...?

When the mercury falls below zero do you know how to encode the reading on ROSA? Well, if you have readings below zero, simply enter the proper ROSA code followed by a double ** sign. For example, the code for your 24 hour minimum temperature reading is "21". Thus, you would encode a -13 temperature as 23**13#

The double ** sign tells the computer that it is a below zero temperature. The # sign concludes the temperature data. Just give me a call if you have questions.

Happy Holidays to All!

I hope each and everyone of you have a great holiday season. Please, review the newsletter and let me know if you have any questions. We are here for you, so don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Billy Ousley, DAPM/Central Illinois NWS

Data Quality Control

B 91 Observation Form Entries:

First, I wish to state that by and large everyone does a tremendous job in the taking and reporting of the daily observations on the B91 Observation Report Form and I thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Our network of

observers has grown over the past 5 years and it is because of you that the Central Illinois Cooperative Observation Program is among the best in the nation! Now, with that said, let me touch on a few things that may serve as a reminder for many and food for thought for some of our newer observers concerning winter weather observation report entries onto the B91.

We are now entering into the winter season, although it hasn't really seemed like it at times. We are periodically seeing observations coming through the ROSA (programmable phone) system that are not in the proper format. The areas of concern are regarding the snow information. Some of the data has been in the wrong format and if the data is in the wrong format, it can cause some problems with the overall network. Hopefully, this information will act as a reminder to all on the proper format for snow data.

When you send in your information, it should match the same format as what you would put on your forms. Here is some examples:

Liquid Precipitation: Always to the nearest hundredth (0.01) on all forms and reports.

Example: 1" of liquid precipitation is recorded as 1.00, not 1.0 or 1

***this includes the melted snowfall readings as well.**

Daily Snowfall: Always to the nearest tenth (0.1) on all forms and reports

Example: 1.2" of snow is recorded as 1.2, not 1.20.

Snow depth: Always to the nearest inch (1) on all forms and reports

Example: Depth of 1.4" is recorded as 1; 1.8" as 2; 4.5" is 5

The sticks you are likely using to measure snow are marked to the nearest tenth. If a measurement comes between 2 markings, decide which the amount of snow is closest to and use that as your reading. This also applies to the black stick you use if you have a 8 inch rain gauge, only this reads to the nearest hundredth.

We hope this information will help answer any questions you might have had regarding this area of information. In a few months, we will be nearly done with the snow for the season and back to just rainfall. Measuring snow can be a challenge for anyone, even the veteran observer. So don't feel like you can't ask a question. Feel free to call us at any time on our 1-800 number. As the saying goes, the only dumb question is one you don't ask. Keep this sheet with your files for next winter to help you out.

Timely Receipt of B-91 and other forms

It is very important to have your B-91's sent into us as soon as possible. We have certain deadlines we have to meet and one of them is to have all forms in by the 15th of each month. This way, the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) has sufficient time to log all reports and to publish the data. Any received after that may not make the monthly publications for the record. Many observers send their forms out on the last day of the month, after taking their observation, or they send it out the next day. It usually takes at most 2 to 3 days to get to us. However, we have discovered that some of the older envelopes have an older bar code on the bottom of the envelope. If you have not received new envelopes within the past year, we would suggest that you take a black, permanent marker and mark out the bar code. The bar code sends

them to our regional office in Kansas City, who then forwards them to us. The new envelopes passed out in the past months have the correct bar code. If in doubt, cross it out anyway.

Errors commonly found on B-91 forms

Some of the most trivial things can actually cause the biggest problems on a form. It is important to have all section on the top left of the form correct so that the form is filed correctly.. This includes...

- Station name
- Month and year
- State and county
- River(if you do river observations)
- Times of all observations (each section should have a time if you report it, if in doubt ask us).

Ones that are missed frequently are:

- Standard time-There are only **2** acceptable entries here, C for central standard time and DC for Central daylight savings time. CST, DST, CDST or CD are not acceptable.
- Observer signature-VERY IMPORTANT. Technically if the form is not signed by the observer, or if several observers(shown by Staff signature), the form is not official. We cannot add your name to it.
- Supervising office is always ILX. Some forms have it pre-stamped, some don't. This is needed as well.
- Station Index No.-VERY IMPORTANT. This is the number that identifies your site in the records. It may be pre-stamped on the form. If not and you do not have yours, call us. We have several new sites and it is possible we may not have passed the information on.

When figuring of Maximum and Minimum temperatures for the 24 hour period. Make sure to take into account the current temp of both the present and past observation. If the past current

temperature is colder than the low recorded on your equipment, the lower of the two must be put in.

Here is an example:

MMTS or Thermometers read a high of 85, low of 45, current 47. Yesterday the current was 38. On your form, you would record a high of 85, a low of 38, not 45 and a current of 47. Since that current observation was taken at the beginning of the new day it counts in the figuring. This may be a bit confusing, and if there are any questions, don't hesitate to call us.

Odd as it may seem, we need you to record 0.00 on any days that you do not receive any precipitation. If nothing is there, normally we can assume that, however, it could also mean that you did not perform that part of the observation as well. Make sure to note this in your observations sent to us as well. Also, if you receive trace of precipitation, record this as T for trace, not Trace or .001. If you are wondering "What is a trace of precipitation" you are not alone. Basically a trace is any amount that cannot be measured. The water in your gauge doesn't make it to 0.01. Or you only have a few sprinkles or snow flurries that don't amount to anything. All these are considered a trace. If ever in doubt, feel free to ask us.

Something you may or may not know, if you observe hail at your site, this counts as snowfall, actually frozen precipitation. Typically, you would just record T for a trace there, but in some of the heavier hail storms, you may actually have the hail pile up several inches(or even feet). If this happens, technically you have to measure the depth of the "new frozen precipitation" and record it. Also if you observe hail, ensure that you mark the "Hail" box under the Weather Section. This way, we know it was hail and not a freak summer snowstorm.

The Central Illinois Lincoln Logs is a quarterly review of NWS activities in Central Illinois and is also available on our internet page at www.crh.noaa.gov/ilx.

Your comments are welcomed and can be addressed to either editor at our office. If you are currently receiving the newsletter through the mail and now obtain it through the Internet...please send us an email and we will remove your name from the mailing list. Spring Central Illinois Lincoln Logs Issue to be issued by the end of January 2001.

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