



# National Weather Service Flagstaff, AZ



**We need your snow reports!**

## We need to know:

- How much **NEW** snow has fallen
- Your location
- Your name (and phone number if we may contact you for questions)
- What time you measured your snow. Please include the beginning and ending time of the snow accumulation that you are reporting, if available.
- Any other important information, such as road closures, damage, etc.

## Tip on snow measuring:

- Measure **NEW** snow only
- **DO NOT** measure old or existing snow depth (do not measure new snow on top of old snow)
- **DO NOT** measure in snow drifts or where blowing snow has accumulated
- It is best to use a snow board if you can, which can be **CLEANED** off after each measurement (so you can measure **NEW** snow accumulation)

## Report your snow measurements to the NWS by going online to:

- <http://weather.gov/Flagstaff> - Then click "Submit a Storm Report" near the top

**More detailed instructions for taking snow measurements follows on the next pages. Thanks for your help!**



# Basic Snow Measuring Instructions



- What you need:
  - A yard stick
  - A flat surface...on the ground in an area not subject to drifting
- When to measure
  - Measure new snowfall as soon as possible after it ends, before settling and melting occur
  - During the event after a period of particularly heavy snowfall

# Where to measure new snowfall

1. Find a nice, level place to measure where drifting or melting has not occurred (like a snowboard)
2. Slide snow stick or ruler into snow until it reaches the ground/board surface
3. Read value on snow stick (value is always to nearest tenth of an inch, like 3.4 inches)
4. If using snowboard, sweep it clean.





# Do not measure under a tree!

## Snow measured under a tree



Notice that only 3.0 inches of snow has accumulated here





# Measure in the open

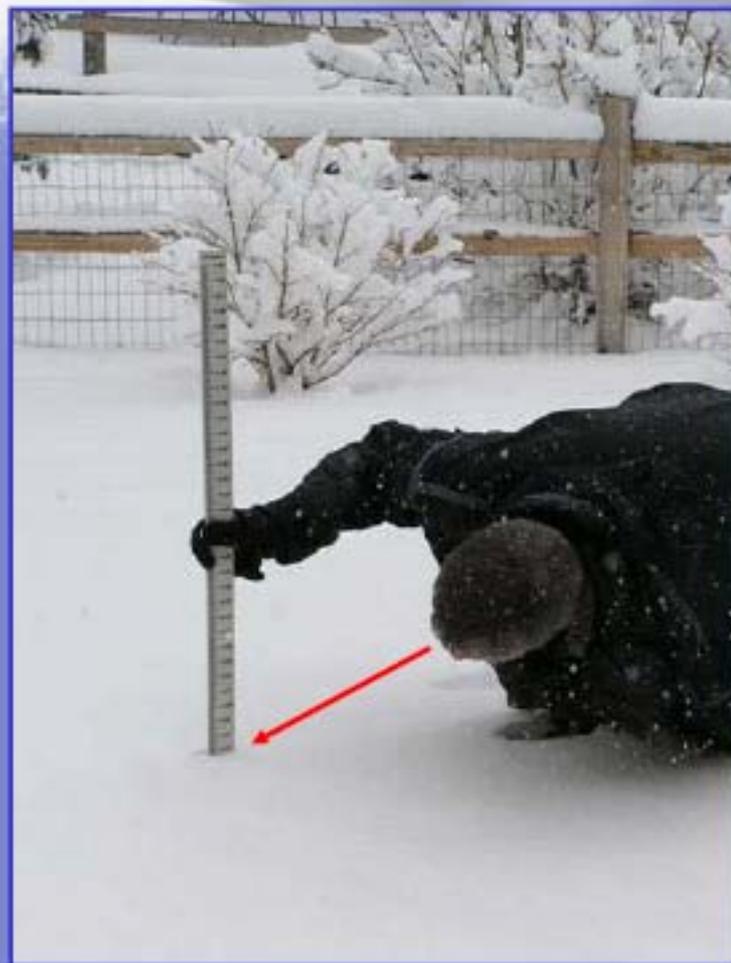
## Snow measured in the open



Whereas 6.5 inches has fallen in the open



# Angle of Measurement



Measure at eye level, as an angle will give you an inaccurate measurement





# If you are using a snowboard...



## Replace the Board



snowboard placement 1



After you have measured the snow on your board, clean it off and replace it on top of the newly fallen snow. Be sure to mark its location. Now you are ready for the next snowstorm.

**If you are measuring on the ground, take your measurement, submit your report, then you are done. Simply pick a new spot for new measurements.**



Please send your snowfall reports  
to the NWS at the following:  
<http://weather.gov/Flagstaff>

When reporting snowfall, let us know the following:

- How much new snow has fallen
- Where your measurement was taken
- What time your measurement was taken
- Any other notable items of interest such as...
  - Wind damage
  - Road closures
  - Any other effects from the heavy snow or other wintry precipitation



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## Tips:

- Please take a measurement and report it at the following times:
  - At the end of the event
  - During the event after a period of particularly heavy snowfall
- Do not measure in snow drifts!
- Make sure the snow report you give us is the NEW snow that has fallen. Do not measure *new* snow on top of old snow. Instead, measure new snow on a surface which did not have old snow already on it.



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### More Tips:

- Make sure the measuring locations are representative of the average snowfall at your location
- It is best to measure in numerous spots then calculate an average snowfall amount. Then report this average.
- Don't measure "artificial accumulations", such as plowed piles, large drifts, or shoveled snow.

**Thank you for your help!**

