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SERVING NWS SKYWARN SPOTTERS,
CO-OP OBSERVERS & COCORAHS OBSERVERS

Sage Winds

National Weather Service - Boise, Idaho

www.weather.gov/boise

Violent Winds Sweep Western U.S.

Violent winds pummeled much of the Western U.S. this past week. In some areas, wind speeds approached hurricane thresholds - flipping semi-trucks, causing blackouts, and (indirectly) initiating wildfires. Violent canyon winds were reported in Utah, while southern California experienced some of the strongest Santa Ana winds seen in years.

THE SET-UP

Strong surface high pressure over the Great Basin combined with deep low pressure over southern Arizona to create an anomalously strong surface pressure gradient across much of the Western U.S. This pressure gradient was further supported by strong winds aloft (in association with an upper-level low centered over the California/Nevada border) and enhancement effects from local terrain.

THE EFFECTS

In relation to this storm, the National Weather Service issued 'Wind Advisories' and/or 'High Wind Warnings' in the following states: California, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Idaho, Arizona and New Mexico. Power outages and downed trees

were widespread, causing school and business closures. Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) lost power for over an hour, wreaking havoc on flight operations. Reports of rolled vehicles and semi-trucks were numerous, along with multi-car accidents.

BY THE NUMBERS

102 mph – Peak wind gust reported in Utah; five miles northwest of Bountiful.

350,000—Estimated number of California residents who temporarily lost power.

55,000—Estimated number of Utah residents who temporarily lost power.

3,000—Approximate number of calls Los Angeles Fire Dispatchers responded to during the high winds.

23—Number of inbound flights delayed or diverted during the LAX power outage.

4,400—Number of traffic incidents reported to LA County officials.

[What are
'Santa Ana Winds'?](#)

Local Climate: Holiday Edition

The Smithsonian Institution, The Weather Bureau, and the present-day National Weather Service have tracked local weather data for decades. In some locations, including Boise, climate information dates back to the mid-to-late 19th century.

Holiday weather tends to garner a lot of attention from the public. With this in mind, NWS-Boise has compiled various holiday weather statistics and posted them on the climate section of our website. One statistic in particular, the probability of a “White Christmas”, earns the bulk of attention. (A “White

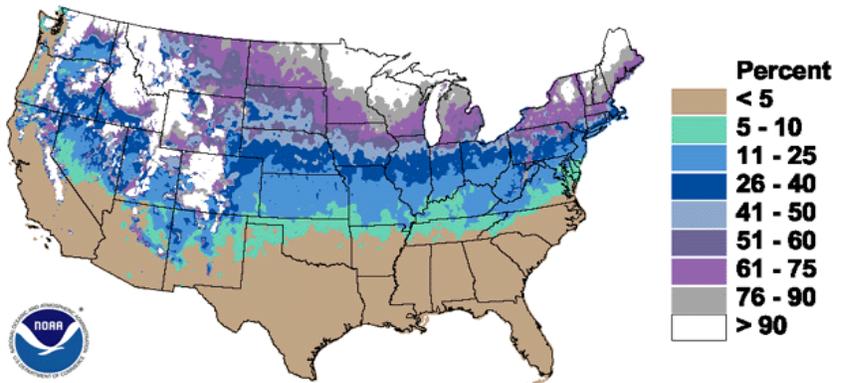
Christmas” is defined as having a snow depth of 1” or greater on December 25th.) See the links below to view some of these local statistics:

[Boise’s Historical White Christmases](#)

[Christmas Climate Data](#)

[New Year’s Climate Data](#)

Probability of a White Christmas

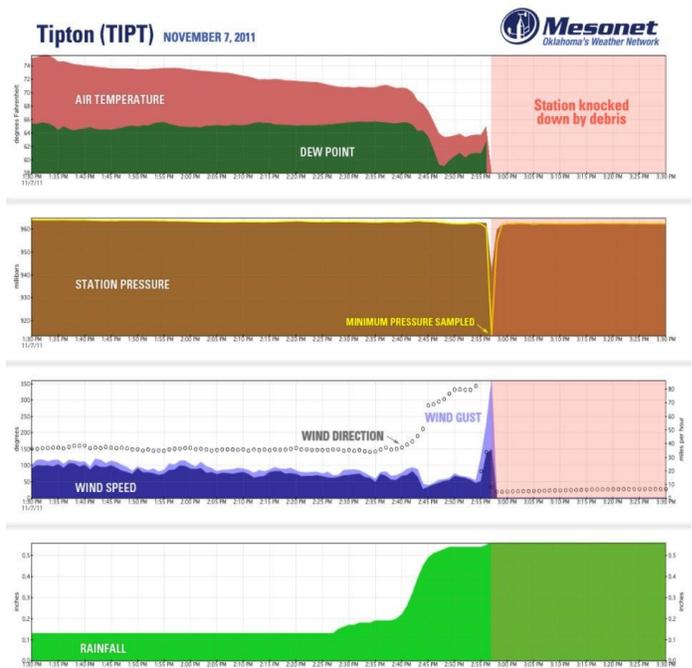


Tornadoes Strike Two OK Weather Stations

During early November, two separate Oklahoma Mesonet weather stations (Tipton and Fort Cobb) were independently struck by a tornado. Some data from each weather station was recorded and retrievable.

The image at right includes several meteograms from the Tipton, Oklahoma station on Monday, November 7th. The meteogram shows one-minute data with time increasing to the right. Note the massive drop (47 mb!) in surface pressure and the wind gust to 86 mph! Click the image at right or the link below for more data, details, and pics:

[Facebook: Oklahoma Mesonet](#)



BOI.SPOTTER@NOAA.GOV

CoCoRaHS Goes Canadian!

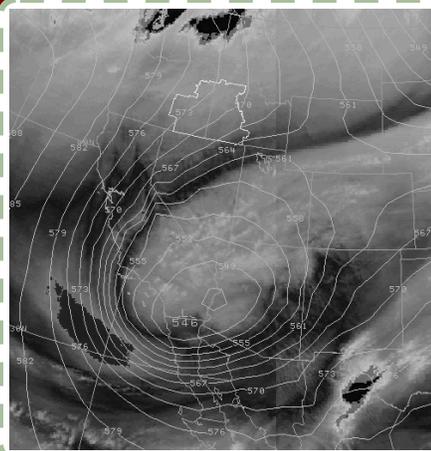


Expect minor updates and changes to the CoCoRaHS website, because the program is expanding...northward! That's right! Soon Canada will be joining the CoCoRaHS ranks. The expansion is partly in response to major flooding that occurred in portions of the Canadian prairie provinces last spring and early summer.

Canadian-specific links denoted with maple leaves. For now, Canadian reports will be in English units, but this will change in the future when the CoCoRaHS website is capable of supporting both English and metric units.

What will change for American CoCoRaHS observers? Not much. You may see a second "Join CoCoRaHS" section, along with some

Recruiting efforts are to begin in Manitoba, so keep your eye out for new observations above the North Dakota & Minnesota borders!



Weather In The News

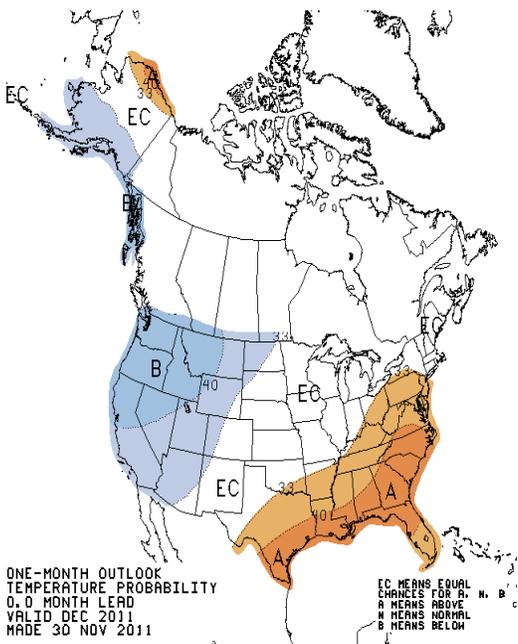
[Active 2011 Hurricane Season Breaks "Hurricane Amnesia"](#)

[VIDEO: The 2011 Hurricane Season in 4.5 minutes](#)

[Santa Ana Winds Return to Southern California \(CNN\)](#)

[Fire Chief: Reno Wildfire Contained \(CNN\)](#)

December Outlook



Temperature Outlook
<<

Precipitation Outlook
>>

