

CENTRAL ILLINOIS LINCOLN LOGS



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

Spring 2001

Severe Weather Preparedness Week

March 4th through 10th, 2001

Severe Weather Season Is Just Around The Corner

Words of Wisdom from the WCM
by Rod Palmer, WCM

Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Illinois this year will be **March 4 - 10**. The **Statewide Tornado Drill** will

be **Tuesday, March 6th at 1000 AM**. Last year there were 55 tornadoes across the state of Illinois. Twenty-Four occurred in the Lincoln NWS coverage area.

This means that all of you trained severe weather spotters will need to come out of winter hibernation and get ready for a new season of tornadoes, funnel clouds, severe thunderstorms, squall lines, bow echoes, large hail, lightning, flash floods, and that old nemesis, scud and dust clouds that get reported as funnel clouds and tornadoes!

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March 3 is the date of the **5th Annual Severe Weather Seminar** hosted by State Farm Insurance in Bloomington from 900 AM - 430 PM. Dr. Walt Lyons will be the morning speaker on lightning research and phenomena followed by six breakout sessions. After lunch, our afternoon speaker will be Tim Marshall, a professional meteorologist and engineer editor of Storm Track magazine, and seasoned storm chaser of some 20 plus years followed by six breakout sessions. This seminar is presented every year for weather spotters, emergency managers, and ham operators in central Illinois.

Weather Spotter classes have been scheduled for half of the 35 counties in the Lincoln Forecast Office's county warning area. March has been nearly booked, but April is wide open. If you'd like to schedule a class, contact me at Rod.Palmer@noaa.gov or by phone at **217-732-3089**. The classes will be presented by any of our 10 forecasters and myself. The classes are two hours in length or 2 hours and 20 minutes if there is a refreshment break in the middle.

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) transmitters are filling the air over much of Illinois as of February 14. In central Illinois we now have radio stations at Moline, Princeton, Odell, Crescent City just west of Watseka, Macomb, Peoria, Jacksonville, Springfield, Champaign, Jerseyville, Shelbyville, Paris, St. Louis, Salem, and Newton. Waiting to go on the air is a station in the Coffeen Lake-Hillsboro area to serve Macoupin and Montgomery Counties.

Shelbyville was the last new station to go on the air on Valentine's Day. On the same day the station on the east side of Springfield was relocated to near Mechanicsburg on the WUIS-FM tower at 400 feet with a new antenna and new coaxial cable. The old site had an antenna only 180 feet above the ground with a damaged coax cable.

Sometime later this year the National Weather Service is planning on installing new NWR sites near Galesburg and Bloomington and in the Kankakee area. Improvements in the Rockford and Chicago areas are also planned.

There is now a big job ahead to educate the public on the availability of this new service in those areas that have never heard NWR before. Concentration will be county by county in the areas of schools, nursing homes, day care centers, offices and plants, and mobile home parks. Individuals will also be encouraged to purchase NWR receivers as a primary means of receiving severe weather watches and warnings.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is playing a key role in this area by providing grants for the purchase of NWR receivers by individual communities. In IEMA's FY2000, 4000 weather radio receivers were distributed to 14 communities. The FY2001 calls for several thousand additional receivers to be distributed to about 17 communities. This important project is being accomplished through IEMA's "Surviving Tornadoes through Awareness and Reaction (STAR) Program. Partners in this program are the NWS, the American Red Cross, and the Illinois Insurance Association.

Illinois Tornado Statistics

by Melissa Byrd, Forecaster

Here are some interesting tornado statistics for Illinois.

- Average Number of Tornadoes Per Year.....30
- Most Tornadoes in a Month (Since 1950)....53 in May 1995
40 in April 1996
- Most Tornadoes in a Year (Since 1950)....107 in 1974
99 in 1998
76 in 1995
- Least Tornadoes in a Year (Since 1950).....4 in 1952 And 1953

The main part of the Illinois tornado season is from mid-march through June...although tornadoes can occur during any month of any season.

Most of the deadly tornadoes occur in March...April...and May. Most tornadoes move from southwest to northeast at 30 to 40 mph, but

some can move at 60 to 70 mph, especially in the spring. Most of Illinois' tornadoes are small and short-lived with winds of around 100 mph or less. A few are strong tornadoes with winds of 100 to 200 mph. Large long-track tornadoes with devastating winds of 200 to 300 mph are extremely rare, but they do occur in Illinois.

...Illinois Tornado Statistics of The 90s...

Year	# of Tornadoes	Tornado Deaths
1990	50	30
1991	32	0
1992	23	0
1993	34	0
1994	20	0
1995	76	0
1996	62	1
1997	29	0
1998	99	0
1999	64	3
2000	55	0

...The Ten Deadliest Tornado Disasters in Illinois since 1880...

Date	# of deaths	path of tornado(es)
March 18, 1925	606	Tri-State tornado (Southern IL)
May 27, 1896	159	East St. Louis - Mt. Vernon
May 26, 1917	102	Mattoon-Charleston
April 21, 1967	58	Belvidere-Lake Zurich-Oak Lawn
May 18, 1883	52	North and Central Illinois

March 19, 1948	33	Alton-Bunker Hill
August 28, 1990	29	Plainfield-Crest Hill-Joliet
March 28, 1920	28	Eelgin and Maywood-Melrose Park
February 19, 1888	24	Mt. Vernon
April 19, 1927	21	Hardin-Springfield-Clinton

...2000 Central Illinois Tornado Statistics...

Central Illinois roughly includes all counties bound to the north by Interstate 74...bound to the south by Interstate 70...bound to the west by Knox...Fulton...Schuyler...Cass...and Scott counties...and bound to the east by the Indiana state line.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TO
	A	E	A	P	A	U	U	U	E	C	O	E	TA
	N	B	R	R	Y	N	L	G	P	T	V	C	L
#	0	0	0	5	13	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	24

No tornado deaths in 2000

...2000 Central Illinois Tornadoes by Intensity...

F0	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	TOTAL
17	6	1	0	0	0	24

Note: 23 out of the 24 central Illinois tornadoes were F0 and F1 intensity in the weak, short-lived, short-path category.

Winter Across Central Illinois

by Kirk Huettl, Meteorologist

Here is a temperature and snowfall table for the past 6 winters at Peoria (PIA), Springfield (SPI) &

Champaign (CMI). The three meteorological winter months included: December, January, & February.

Dec. 00 & Jan. 01	21.6	-10.8	12.1	+1.3
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Peoria... (AVG Winter Mean Temp = 25.0, AVG Winter Snowfall = 19.6)

Champaign... (AVG Winter Mean Temp = 27.2, AVG Winter Snowfall = 21.1)

Winter Season	Mean Temp.	Departure from Normal	Snowfall	Departure from Normal
Dec. 95-Feb. 96	26.1	+1.1	11.4	-8.2
Dec. 96-Feb. 97	26.6	+1.6	N/A	N/A
Dec. 97-Feb. 98	33.4	+8.4	20.1	+0.5
Dec. 98-Feb. 99	30.8	+5.8	24.3	+4.7
Dec. 99-Feb. 00	31.3	+6.3	11.8	-7.8
Dec. 00 & Jan.	20.2	-8.3	26.4	+13.8

Winter Season	Mean Temp.	Departure from Normal	Snowfall	Departure from Normal
Dec. 95-Feb. 96	26.4	-0.8	23.0	+1.9
Dec. 96-Feb. 97	28.2	+1.0	24.0	+2.9
Dec. 97-Feb. 98	34.7	+7.5	4.6	-16.5
Dec. 98-Feb. 99	31.8	+4.6	26.6	+5.5
Dec. 99-Feb. 00	31.4	+4.2	17.9	-3.2
Dec. 00	16.5	-12.8	14.7	+8.7

Springfield... (AVG Winter Mean Temp = 27.5, AVG Winter Snowfall = 19.9)

Here's a summary of records set so far this winter. The only record set in January 2001 was when Peoria set a daily record rainfall of 2.35 inches on Jan 29, smashing the old record of 0.98 inches. Only 3 other winter days were wetter with Jan 1, 1965 accumulating the most precipitation with 4.43 inches.

Winter Season	Mean Temp.	Departure from Normal	Snowfall	Departure from Normal
Dec. 95-Feb. 96	27.5	0	18.2	-1.7
Dec. 96-Feb. 97	28.8	+1.3	21.7	+1.8
Dec. 97-Feb. 98	35.2	+7.7	11.1	-8.8
Dec. 98-Feb. 99	32.1	+4.6	21.8	+1.9
Dec. 99-Feb. 00	33.5	+6.0	9.5	-10.4

December 2000 on the other hand set numerous temperature and snowfall records. Peoria had the 2nd snowiest December with 21.3 inches, which was 14.8 inches above normal. It was also the 4th snowiest month ever with records dating back to 1884. The 8 inches of snow on Dec 11th set a daily snowfall record for any day in December. Had a record snow depth of 9 inches on Christmas Day. An even higher snow depth of 13 inches on Dec 30-31 tied for the deepest December snow depth also set on Dec 20, 1973. The average monthly temperature of 16.1 degrees became the 3rd cold December, less than 1 degree from the coldest December in 1983. A

high temperature of 5 degrees on Dec 17th was the coldest high for that day. Temperature records also date back to 1884.

Springfield set its own records during December 2000. The 10 inches of snow was just 0.2 inches away from the top 10 snowiest Decembers. The 5.4 inches of snow on Dec 13 set a daily record, with snowfall records dating back to 1881. With an average monthly temperature of 17.3 degrees, it became the 2nd coldest December and only 1.2 degrees shy of the coldest December in 1983. A high temperature of 7 degrees on Dec. 17th was the coldest high for that day. Temperature records date back to July 1879.

The coldest temperatures experienced so far this winter were on Christmas morning. Peoria dropped to 12 below, Springfield was 9 below, Lincoln had 8 below. Here are some of the coldest readings at cooperative observation sites: Congerville had 18 below, Minonk was 15 below, Prairie City was 14 below, Hutsonville was 10 below and Bloomington had 9 below. It was even colder across Northern Illinois with Rockford hitting a record 22 below.

Central Illinois Spring Water

by Tom Frieders, Hydrology Focal Point

With the onset of spring, comes excessive water. The cold and snowy weather of December across Central Illinois will only trend toward a higher potential for spring flooding. Several rivers have already climbed over their banks, which is likely just a reminder of what is just around the corner.

Late winter and early spring can be very susceptible to flooding across Central Illinois. Heavy rains fall over frozen or saturated ground to produce high levels of runoff into our streams and rivers. If you add rapidly melting snow cover

to the equation, flooding will be aggravated further.

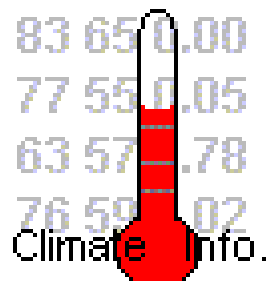
So how can the National Weather Service forecast the potential for flooding? River Forecast Centers within the National Weather Service use a compilation of river forecasting models to access the flood potential. But, the answer ultimately comes from weather observations received from our vast network of volunteer cooperative weather observers across Central Illinois. These observations, which include precipitation amounts, precipitation type, snowfall, snow depth, and the water equivalent of that snow depth, are the primary input into the river forecasting models. Therefore, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of daily reports, especially when precipitation has occurred or flooding is imminent.

How does the River Forecast Center Model work? Complex Rainfall/Runoff models compile cooperative observer reports, determine the amount of water that will run off into streams and then convert this water into forecast river stages. The river stages are then used to monitor local rivers across the area. Flood warnings can then be issued if conditions warrant to alert local residents and emergency managers of a flood potential. Appropriate actions can then be taken to protect lives and property for those areas affected.

Besides being used in the river forecasting models for river and stream flooding, they are also of great use by local meteorologists for accessing short term hydrologic forecasting issues. Some short term issues would include the potential for flash flooding.

Whether it be longer term river forecasting or short term flash flood forecasting, the more observations that are received, the better the forecasts. Again, this stresses the importance of each and every report to support the mission of

the National Weather Service in issuing forecasts for the protection of life and property.



The Value of Cooperative Weather Observations

by Jim Angel, Illinois State Climatologist

The value of cooperative weather observations has always been high in Illinois; however, they have increased in value at an ever-rapid rate in the last few years. The advent of the Internet has played a major role in fueling this growth, including the demand for daily updates. As the Illinois State Climatologist, I use these data extensively to provide data and products to federal, state, and local agencies, to private companies, lawyers, and individuals. Here are some examples of uses of the cooperative network in this past year:

- Monitoring the 1999-2000 drought in Illinois - coop reports sent in by way of ROSA were used to monitor the current conditions across the state during the drought. The Illinois Drought Task Force used this information to anticipate and lessen the impacts of the drought. If the drought had continued through the summer of 2000, the coop data would have been used to identify those counties that would qualify for state and federal relief programs.
- Ag companies such as Monsanto, Cargil, and Pioneer have used coop data with test plot data to examine the

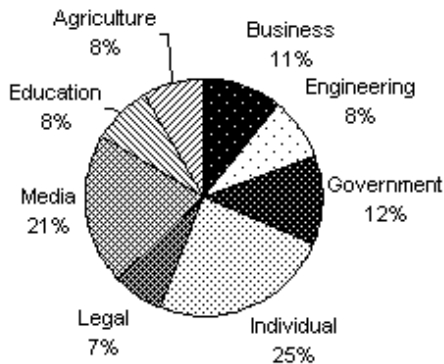
effectiveness of plant varieties and chemicals as well as track sales activity.

- Coop data are used in legal cases to determine the weather conditions associated with crimes or accidents.
- Coop data are used in research at the Illinois State Water Survey and the University of Illinois. Recently coop data helped identify conditions leading to sudden-death syndrome in soybeans. Coop data was also used to identify conditions leading to recent losses in the peach and apple crop in southern Illinois.
- Accumulated temperatures such as heating degree-days and growing degree-days are used by a wide variety of customers to identify energy usage and the growth stages of various crops and pests through "today". This application is especially sensitive to missing or late data.
- Historical data have been used to identify the impacts of El Niño and La Niña on the climate of Illinois, leading to savings of millions in dollars in making the correct decisions, such as the best strategy for purchasing natural gas.

Figure 1 is the distribution of users in just one month of activity from the State Climatologist web site. I also handle about 100 requests by phone or email per month. Additional requests are handled by the NWS, the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, and the National Climatic Data Center.

These are just a few of the many uses of your observations in Illinois. I would estimate that the impact on the economy of Illinois is on the order of millions of dollars per year. Their value will increase, as more reports are made daily via ROSA or other means. Please

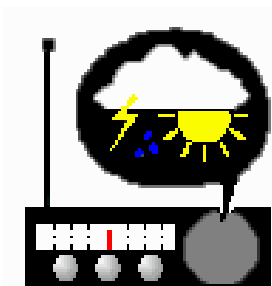
contact me (using the information below) about any climate data or products that would be of interest to you.



16,680 hits on the web site

Figure 1. State climatologist web site activity by user group for August 2000.

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NOAA Weather Radio Coverage Modifications

by Chris Geelhart,
 NWR Focal Point

Our coverage areas for NOAA Weather Radio are being slightly modified. This is due to an increased number of NWR stations. In addition, signal strength measurements indicate that some coverage areas need to be tweaked.

Specifically:

- For the **Champaign NWR**, we previously aired watches, warnings and advisories for Iroquois, Cumberland and Clark Counties without tone-alert features. These will no longer be done. Tone-alert service for Iroquois County is available from stations WXX-24 in Odell and KXI-86 in Crescent City. Cumberland and Clark Counties are included in tone-alert service for station KXI-48 in Newton.
- For the **Peoria NWR**, we previously aired watches, warnings and advisories for Schuyler County without tone-alert features. This will be discontinued, as Schuyler County receives tone-alert service from station WXJ-92 in Macomb.
- The **Jacksonville NWR** coverage area has been defined. It will consist of Brown, Cass, Greene, Morgan, Pike and Scott Counties.
- For the **Newton NWR**, watches, warnings and advisories for Wayne and Edwards Counties will be broadcast.

Coverage for new station KXI-47 in Paris will soon be defined, as will upcoming new station KXI-46 in Shelbyville.

For a listing of coverage areas in Illinois, you can check on our Internet page at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ilx/nwr/nwrcover.htm>

Help! Request for Call-Spot Volunteers!

By Dan Smith and Billy Ousley

We are looking for volunteers to help us out during active weather events by providing us with much needed “on-the-spot” observations. This not only

includes help during our severe weather season in the summer, but also reporting significant weather in the winter season.

During severe weather events the need for accurate information and dependable observers is of the utmost importance. If you are interested in this program and willing to assist us with this information, then there is specific information that we will need from you. One prime bit of information that we will need is...a ***specific time frame that you can be called*** by one of our Meteorologists or Technicians. For example, "call only from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.", or "call me anytime, day or night".

Also, when the Meteorologist or Technician calls, he or she will be asking for specific storm related information. An estimate on wind speed, any damage that may have occurred with a particular storm, any standing water or flooding in or close to your home/work. This Spring, some of our staff members will be providing localized training in observation practices during severe weather.

If you have a interest in this program, please let us know. How can you contact us? You may call us on our 1-800 Coop/Spotter line. Additionally, you may wish to email us at:

daniel.smith@noaa.gov

or

billy.ousley@noaa.gov

Your information will go a long way in determining, for example, if any warnings need to be issued in areas downstream from your location or whether forecasts need to be updated. You will be providing valuable information to Meteorologists in the forecast and warning process, and the National Weather Service would be most grateful of your efforts.

The DAPM Corner

by Billy Ousley, DAPM (Data Acquisition Program Manager)

Though it's mid February, I know that most peoples thoughts are turning to Spring! I, too, find myself longing for the return of leaves to the trees, blooming of flowers, and the lengthening of the days. However, we still live in central Illinois and all of us realize that Old Man Winter is slow to release his grip on our lives.

Anyway, we have the seen much weather this winter. Every other day in December we seemingly had an extra dose of snow tossed upon, rain and freezing rain in January, and near record warmth in early February (temperatures in the 60s) giving way to strong, cold north winds (63 mph in Lincoln) with temperatures rapidly falling (about 20 degrees inside of an hour)...all in the same day (February 10).

I know it was hard work just to go about your daily chores, but many of you served your communities well by providing your daily observation reports of the weather and recording the information. I know that at times it must seem a mundane chore and you wonder if anyone realizes your efforts or understands your commitment to duty. However, your efforts made the job of the NWS much easier as a Disaster Declaration was issued by the Governor in January for the heavy snows of December. Many requests for information and access to Cooperative observation data were received in our office. Due to the quality of your reports and the clarity of your B91 observation forms, the NWS was able to work quickly and effectively with IEMA and FEMA to resolve the questions surrounding which counties were eligible for Federal assistance.

Again, thanks to all of the dedicated Cooperative program observers for their efforts in supplying

the daily observation reports to our office. You do a great service for the Central Illinois NWS office and your communities! Keep up the good work.

Cooperative Weather Observation Program

By Billy Ousley, DAPM

Viewing CD's via the Internet

Hey, this is just a reminder. Did you know that the observation data that you record each morning (or evening in some cases) is available through the Internet! You need to visit the website at NCDC to view the data. All you will need is your 'user id' and 'password' to get into the system. If you would like to view your stations CD information via the Internet, give our office a call and I will see that you get the proper 'user id' and 'password' for this purpose. After viewing your data, you may prefer to stop receiving the monthly CD publications and just use the Internet! If so, let me know and I will see to it that your CD mailings are stopped!



It May Be Late Winter...But It Still Snows!

By Billy Ousley, DAPM

When it snows, three measurements are taken for your daily report and B91 weather forms. These measurements are the amount of water in the snow, snowfall since yesterday's observation, and the depth of snow at observation time.

Measuring the amount of water in the snow

The Funnel and Measuring tube should be removed from the 8 inch rain gage before any snowfall, if not removed snow won't fall in

representative quantity into the gage and readings will not be accurate!

A) Pour warm water into the measuring tube that you've removed before the snow.

B) Measure the warm water in the measuring tube.

C) After measuring the warm water, pour it into the overflow can to melt the snow.

D) After the snow has melted in the overflow can, empty the overflow can into the measuring tube.

E) Measure the water in the measuring tube.

F) Subtract the amount of warm water you poured into the tube.

G) Record the difference (to the nearest hundredth of an inch) in the "Melted Snow" column.

Measuring snowfall since yesterday

Find some place where the freshly fallen snow is least drifted and is about average depth for your area. If the snow melted before observation time, report an estimated snowfall amount, if you were able to view the snowfall before melting.

Report snowfall since yesterday's observations to the nearest tenth of an inch. When a significant amount of new snow has occurred, round off to the nearest inch and record as, for example 2.0 and 3.0 (Record as 2.0 not 2, 3.0 not 3).

Depth of the snow on the ground at observation time...Usually about 7 A.M. Local

Record snow depth in this column to the nearest WHOLE inch. If less than ½ inch, record "T". Any time there is snow on the ground at observation time record the average depth on the

ground at the time you take your observation. Your measurement will be a total snow depth measurement of the old snow as well as newly fallen snow.

We have **SNOW MEASUREMENT GUIDES and Winter Storms...the Deceptive Killers brochures** available - if you'd like a copy of either just give us a call or drop us a letter and we'll get them in the mail to you.

Monthly Reports

Over the past year we've noted a significant decrease in the number of "late" B-91 reports. However, there is still room for improvement. We need your B-91 report forms as soon after the month ends as possible. When your forms arrive in our office they must be logged in, checked for errors, and corrections entered. The forms have to arrive at NCDC no later than 25th of each month. We will begin sending out "reminders" if we haven't gotten your forms by around the 10th of each month - if you've mailed your forms early and we still don't have them by the middle of the month you may need to send us another copy. You can also fax your B-91 forms to us at (217)732-3546.

Supplies and Equipment Repairs

If you need any supplies or any of the observation equipment needs repairs please give our office a call. All you need to do is let the staff know that you are a Coop observer and tell them you are reporting equipment problems or in need of supplies. If you want to, you can ask to speak to the **DAPM Billy Ousley or John Parr, our expert Coop Maintenance Technician**, as he is usually here during the daytime business hours. Supplies will be sent or delivered as soon as possible. Emergency equipment repairs are usually taken care of as quickly as possible, general "cleaning" and upkeep visits are scheduled to fit your schedule. We do have a few Cotton Region Weather

Shelters available to replace existing ones that are in need of significant repair. These newer shelters will be used to replace the oldest ones in our area.

Computerized B-91 Forms

In this age of computers ... it was only a matter of time before the B-91 form (Record of River and Climatological Observations) was computerized. We have a program called Compu-B91 available to any Cooperative Weather Observer that would like to use it. One of our staff will be available to install the software and provide training.

The Compu B-91 program will run on even older computers and take up less than 2 mb of hard drive space. Laser, bubble-jet, and older dot-matrix printers will work with the latest version of the software. You'll still need to print copies of your monthly weather report (B-91) each month and mail them to us. In the future we may be able to transfer the files by computer.

If you'd like more information about the program or would like to use it, please give our office a call or via e-mail to: billy.ousley@noaa.gov

From The Maintenance Corner

by John Parr, HMT

Maintenance 101 (Fisher & Porter Gages)

This is not new news or those of you that have the recording rain (Fisher & Porter) gages installed at your location, this winter has been hard on the machines! I have noticed a few problems with the tapes that have come in during the past few months. The biggest problem is the tape is not punched through completely. This is normally caused by the pins in the punch block getting dull. The cure is to replace either the pins or the punch

block assembly. We have had some problems with the “new” punch pins not being as sharp as they need to be. To remedy this, we have procured brand new punch block assemblies that I will begin to install on the gages over the next few months as time permits. I hope that these new assemblies cure this problem along with the tape “skipping” problem as well.

Friendly Reminder

Please make sure when you change the tape at the beginning of each month, that you make sure you put the tape on for the correct time on the 24 hour clock. Additionally, when you take the tape off, write the actual time you take it off the machine. This allows me to note if the tape has “skipped” or “jumped” time during the month.

Heads Up!

I will be doing the summarization of the Fisher & Porter gages during the month of April this year. I will give you an advance call so that you know the time that I will be in your area.

New MMTS Display

by Billy Ousley, DAPM

The National Weather Service has made some improvements to the display unit which is part of your stations temperature equipment. The new unit, identified by the (ASN) C450-7 markings on the faceplate, has several improvements which will assist you in collecting better temperature information. Most of these improvements involve the operation of the display unit during periods when electrical power is interrupted.

THE NORMAL OPERATION of the new display is exactly the same as the previous model. The display shows the current temperature, to the 10th of a degree. To

determine the maximum temperature, press the **MAX** button. Likewise, to determine the minimum temperature press the **MIN** button. The reset sequence is also the same, press and hold the **RESET** button and at the same time press the **MAX** and then the **MIN** buttons. This action will reset both the maximum and minimum to the value shown as the current temperature. Remember to report temperatures only in whole degrees.

IN THE EVENT OF A POWER FAILURE, the improved system operates considerably different than the previous model. When electrical power fails, the display will go blank, except for the decimal point, to save battery power. The system will continue to collect data but the information is not displayed. When the power is restored, the display returns and the data is available for your next scheduled observation. There is no need for you to do anything special, simply report your temperatures (rounded to whole degrees) the same as you have always done.

If the electrical power is not restored before the battery goes dead, the unit will stop functioning and the decimal point on the display will disappear. All data is lost from memory when the battery power is completely depleted. When power is restored the display will read **HELP**. This indicates that the unit has no valid data and the **RESET** button must be pressed to restore normal operations. After the unit displays a valid temperature you should press and hold the **RESET** button while pressing the **MAX** and then the **MIN** buttons to reset the system, same as you have always done.

A flashing right digit indicates that the internal battery is being recharged. A fully depleted battery may take over 24 hours to recharge. If the flashing digit continues for more than a couple of days, report the problem to your National Weather Service Representative.

If you have any questions about this new display please feel free to contact your local National Weather Office. We are confident you will find this new display unit easy to use while providing improved temperature data.



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. Summer Central Illinois Lincoln Logs Issue to be issued by the middle of May 2001.

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