

WF Observations

Quarterly Newsletter for the South Florida Emergency Management and Spotter Community
Volume IX, Number 1, February, 2005

Published by the National Weather Service **Weather Forecast Office**, Miami, Florida

Palm Beach Records Period Extended Back

Hypoluxo, Jupiter Records Extend back to 1890

The NWS Miami-South Florida Weather Forecast Office has been working since 1999 to extend the period of record back to include all of the available meteorological data for South Florida. This project has already been completed for **Miami**, and records from Fort Dallas (Seminole Wars), Biscayne (near present day Miami Shores, 1870s-1880s), Lemon City (1895-1900), Miami Coop stations (1900-1911), and the old Miami WBO (1911-1939) have been included in the period of record in addition to Miami Airport records. Interestingly, the first non-military weather observations for Miami were taken in the 1870s at the old Biscayne settlement by Ephraim Sturtevant, a Yale grad from Ohio and Julia Tuttle's (the Mother of Miami) father!

Fort Lauderdale has also been completed, and records now extend back to the Seminole Wars (old Fort Lauderdale near Bahia Mar), and Fort Lauderdale coop stations (1912-present).

For **West Palm Beach**, records for the Signal Service station at Jupiter (1890-1900), Hypoluxo (1900-1930), West Palm Beach downtown (PB Post, 1930-1941), and the Palm Beach Airport (1941 to present) will be included. This now includes the infamous severe freezes in December 1894 and February 1895.

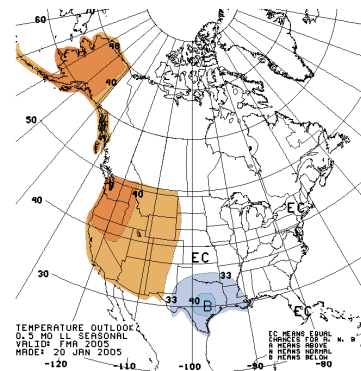
South Florida Remains Dry

It has been an unusually dry winter, especially in light of the fact that a weak El Niño is still ongoing in the central Pacific. Usually an El Niño, even a weak one, means that South Florida will have above normal rainfall. This year, the main storm track has been active but has remained north of South Florida. For Miami, the rainfall total of 0.85 inches for November and December combined was the 8th lowest in history. At Fort Lauderdale, the 2004 yearly rainfall total of 41.46 inches is the 9th driest yearly total for the period of record beginning in 1913. At West Palm Beach, the December rainfall total of 0.78 inches was the 15th driest December since 1888.

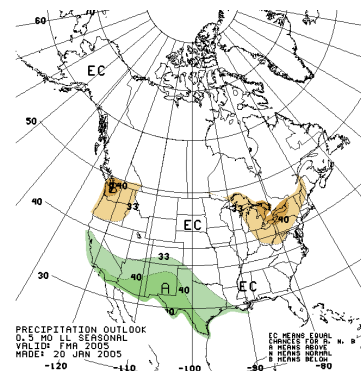
Our temperatures were below normal for December 2004. For January 2005, temperatures will likely average near or slightly below normal. The coldest day so far this winter was January 24, with a low temperature of 38 at Naples and West Palm Beach, 41 at Fort Lauderdale, and 43 at Miami. Freezing temperatures (32 degrees) were observed at Ortona in Glades County and Immokalee in Collier County on that same day.

The outlook for February, March, and April, 2005, for South Florida is for equal chances of either above/below normal temperatures and rainfall.

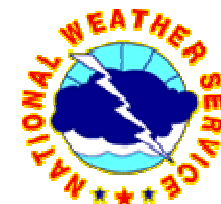
CPC Outlook for Feb Mar Apr



Near normal temps



Near normal precipitation



WFO Miami Staff

Rusty Pfost, MIC	305-229-4502
Jim Lushine, WCM	305-229-4520
Dr. Pablo Santos, SOO	305-229-4521
Main Number	305-229-4522