

8. DATA SOURCES

Weather observations at numerous stations can be accessed nearly realtime with a computer and modem. Other weather data sources include radio and television broadcasts. Some climatological data can be obtained in electronic format, such as computer files or databases on diskette, tape, or CD-ROM; much of this is not free.

8.1. CURRENT WEATHER INFORMATION

Current weather observations from weather observation stations operated by the National Weather Service can be obtained from several sources that do not require computers. The following list includes media involved with dissemination of current weather information, forecasts, and special weather advisories, watches, and warnings.

•Hurricane Hotline

Recorded telephone messages are activated when a tropical storm or hurricane threatens. These messages identify areas affected by the watch or warning, location of the storm, forecasted movement, wind speeds, and tidal effects. There is a cost of 50 cents for the first minute, and 45 cents for each additional minute. The average call costs 85 cents.

Atlantic: (900) 410-NOAA or (900) 410-6622.

Pacific: (900) 410-CANE or (900) 410-2263.

•Marine Weather Radio

Weather observations, charts, warnings, advisories, and other information are broadcast on various marine weather radio frequencies for shipping interests. Stations operated by NOAA are part of an international network of marine weather radio stations. For marine interests, phone service is operated by BOAT/U.S. Weather Watch at (900) 933-BOAT--this is a toll call. A list of stations and frequencies operated on the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Great Lakes is provided in a publication available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20418.

Essentially all meteorological data collected in the United States are archived by the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), an agency of NOAA in Asheville, NC. Climatic data can be obtained from governmental sources, either through publications in libraries or certain government offices.

•NOAA Weather Radio

The expanded NOAA Weather Radio network of over 425 FM stations is operated by the National Weather Service (NWS) and provides continuous weather information. Stations operate at seven high FM-band frequencies:

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|-------------|-------------|
| 162.400 Mhz | 162.425 Mhz |
| 162.450 Mhz | 162.475 Mhz |
| 162.500 Mhz | 162.525 Mhz |
| 162.550 Mhz | 161.650 Mhz |
| 161.775 Mhz | 163.275 Mhz |

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts are also available from touch-tone telephones; select a local broadcast at:

(900) 884-NOAA

(900) 884-6622

Call (800) 662-6622 toll free for further information.

A listing of NOAA Weather Radio stations in the U.S. can be obtained from:

-Local National Weather Service offices.

-Customer Service, National Weather Service, NOAA, 1325 East-West Highway, Room 14360, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone (301) 713-0090.

-Web: www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwr.htm

•The Weather Channel

This cable television channel continuously broadcasts weather programming from Atlanta, Ga. An educational segment entitled 'The Weather Classroom' is broadcast daily, and covers a wide variety of topics. Teachers may videotape this segment at no charge for use in their classrooms.

8.2. CLIMATOLOGICAL INFORMATION

•Canada

Canadian climate data can be obtained from two sources:

Canadian Government Publishing Center
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0S9

Phillips, D.W., D.W. Gullett, and M.S. Webb, 1988:
Handbook on climate data sources of the Atmospheric Environment Service, 3rd edition. Canadian Climate Center, Downsview, Ontario, Environment Canada, 326 pp.

•Federal Sources of Climate Data

Publications related to weather and climate, including publications in this section, can be found at many of the 1370 sites across the country. For more information about this program and the location of the nearest Depository, contact your local library or:

Federal Depository Library Program
U.S. Government Printing Office
Superintendent of Documents, Stop SM
Washington, DC 20402

•*National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)*

The following publications are available:

- Daily Weather Maps* (weekly)
- Storm Data* (monthly)
- Mariners Weather Log* (quarterly)
- Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*
- Weekly Climate Bulletin*
- Local Climatic Data* for individual stations (monthly and annual)
- Climatological Data* for individual states (monthly and annual)
- Hourly Precipitation Data* for individual states (monthly)
- Climates of the United States*
- Monthly Climatological Data for the World* (monthly)
- Monthly and Seasonal Weather Outlook* (semimonthly)

Federal Building
151 Patton Avenue
Asheville NC 28801-5001
Phone: (704) 271-4800
Fax: (704) 271-4876
Web: www.ncdc.noaa.gov

•*NOAA Library and Information Services Division*

Central Library
Washington Science Center-4
6009 Executive Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20852
Circulation: (301) 443-8330
Reference: (301) 443-8332
Interlibrary loan: (301) 443-8333

•*Regional Climate Centers*

Six centers have climatic databases for the states in their region. These centers will respond to requests for regional climate information.

High Plains Climate Center

Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming.

Lincoln, NE 68583-0728
Web: hpccsun.unl.edu
Phone: (402) 472-5206
(402) 472-6706

Midwest Climate Center

Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin.

Champaign, IL
Web: mcc.sws.uiuc.edu
Phone: (217) 244-1488
(217) 344-8226

Northeast Regional Climate Center

Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia.

Ithaca, NY 14853
Web: met-www.cit.cornell.edu
Phone: (607) 255-1749
(607) 255-1751

Southeast Regional Climate Center

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia.

1201 Main Street, Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29201
Web: water.dnr.state.sc.us/climate/sercc/
Phone: (803) 737-0800

Southern Regional Climate Center

Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas.

Baton Rouge, LA 70803-4105
Web: maestro.srcc.lsu.edu/srcc.html
Phone: (225) 388-5021

Western Regional Climate Center

Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington.

Reno, NV 89506-0220
Web: wrcc.sage.dri.edu/
Phone: (702) 677-3139
(702) 677-3106