FloridaClimateCenter
Office of the State Climatologist

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To Whom It May Concern:

Included with this letter you will find information you requested from our office concerning weather observations for the area of Ocala, Florida. Hourly observations provided were taken from the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) station located at the Ocala International Airport, which is approximately 7 miles from the location of interest. Daily observations were taken from the National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative (COOP) Network station in Ocala. Data provided for this report covers the date of September 10, 2008. Also attached is a list of conversions and meteorological identifiers that will help you decipher the information. A map of the area, courtesy of Google Maps, has also been included. Note the locations of the stations and area of interest, marked by either yellow push-pins or other identifiers.

The AWOS stations are controlled and operated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), as well as by some state and local governments and some private agencies. The NWS and Department of Defense (DOD) play no role in the operation or deployment of AWOS stations. They generally report in once every hour, while the airport is in operation, and do not report any special observations for rapidly changing weather conditions.

The observations from Ocala International Airport on 09/10/2008 around the time of the incident (listed as around 2:30PM on the 10th) were:

Date	Time	Visibility	Temp	Dew Point	Relative Humidity	Wind	Wind Gust	Pressure	Present Weather	Report Type
10	1355	10.00 miles	82˚F	75˚F	79%	ESE 6 mph	--	29.83”	None	Auto
10	1415	10.00 miles	75°F	72°F	90%	East 7 mph	--	29.85”	None	Auto
10	1435	3.00 miles	75˚F	72°F	90%	East 9 mph	24 mph	29.85”	Thunderstorm	Auto
10	1455	10.00 miles	75°F	72°F	90%	East 6 mph	--	29.84”	Thunderstorm	Auto

In addition to the data from the airports, observations of daily precipitation totals were taken from the COOP station in Ocala, Florida. These COOP stations are sites where observations are taken or other services rendered by volunteers or contractors. Observers record temperature and precipitation daily and send those reports monthly to NCDC and a NWS office. The COOP stations vary in the times that they

report the weather information they've collected, so these totals are for the 24-hour period, usually beginning/ending between 7:00AM and 9:00 AM, though some stations report outside of that time window. For example, daily data are collected by the COOP station and reported from 2pm to 2pm, which means rain that fell on a particular day (example: 09/10/08) could be reported the following day (example: 09/11/08).

Daily values of temperatures and precipitation from each station are included with this report. Any variable listed as -999 represents a missing value for the day.

Station	NWS COOP ID	Time of Observation	Rainfall Total 09/10/2008	Rainfall Total 09/11/2008
Ocala	086414	1700	0.50"	0.15"

Also included with this letter are official paper copies of requested radar images, provided by NCDC, for certain times during the event. The images provided are known as Base Reflectivity Images, which display echo intensity measured in dBZ (decibels of Z, where Z represents the energy reflected back to the radar). The scale of dBZ values is also related to the intensity of rainfall. Dates and times are located on the right hand side of each image (year/month/date/time are given in GMT). Since time is given in GMT, the date on the first image reflects being taken at 1745 on the 10th, which corresponds to 1:45 PM EDT on the 10th.

The provided images were taken from the radar site located at Jacksonville International Airport in Duval County. The approximate location of interested is noted on each image (the red line represents Interstate 75). Typically, light rain is occurring when the dBZ value reaches 20. The higher the dBZ value, the stronger the rain-rate. Depending on the type of weather occurring and the area of the U.S., forecasters use a set of rain-rates, which correspond to the dBZ values.

At 1745 GMT on the 10th, the radar indicated several cells of moderate to heavy rainfall to the south and southeast of the Ocala area. Theses storms moved from the south/southeast to the northwest over the course of the two hours (1754 GMT to 2016 GMT). About 1802 GMT (2:02 PM EDT) light rain is seen in the area of the Winn Dixie and by 1819 GMT (2:19 PM EDT), a stronger storm was beginning to approach the area of interest from the southeast. A radar image from 18:30 GMT (2:30 PM EDT, the listed time of incident), showed a storm with moderate to heavy rainfall was impacting the area of interest. Rain continued to move through the area after the time of incident.

Based on the data provided to us, rain fell over the area of interest on September 10th before, during and after the time of incident.

I hereby certify that the data provided are true copies of the specified records and/or publications for the times and places indicated thereon on file at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, NC, and the Southeast Regional Climate Center in Chapel Hill, NC.

Sincerely,

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