

# 07 DEC 04 – N2LMU (Net Control) Training Material

## Snow Measurement Guidelines

### Using a measuring stick

Find a location where the snow appears to be near its average depth. This may be difficult if the snow has drifted. Look for a flat, somewhat open area away from buildings and trees. Some trees in the distance may be helpful by breaking the wind and preventing excessive drifting.

Measure the depth with a sturdy measuring stick, such as a ruler or a yardstick. Convert readings to the nearest tenth of an inch. Measure the depth at several locations and use an average depth if drifting has occurred.

### Snow Boards

Snow boards are placed on top of old snow on the ground when there is any possibility of new snow falling. They are made of thin lumber or other light material that will not sink into the snow, yet be heavy enough not to blow away. They should be painted white whenever possible. Push the snow board into the snow on the ground just far enough to make the top of the board level with the top of the snow. Boards should be cleared and placed in a new location after each observation, always making sure that the top of the board is flush with the snow on the ground.

### Measuring new snow on top of old snow

When new snow has fallen on top of old snow, it is necessary to measure the depth of the new snow as well as the total depth of all snow on the ground. Snow boards provide the best method of taking measurements in this case. If you do not have a snow board and the old snow has developed a crust or become packed, it may be possible to measure the new snow by inserting a measuring stick until it meets the crust of the old snow. Snow also tends to darken over time as it remains on the ground, so it may be possible to cut a vertical core sample through the snow down to the ground and measure the new snow depth along with the total snow depth.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Emergency Power Nights

The last net of the month will be designated as emergency power night. During the last Essex County Skywarn net for each month, we ask that all stations check-in using a power source other than commercial electric power. This is to test stations ability to pass information when severe weather disrupts normal power. The first emergency power night will be December 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Next Weeks Net Topics

What happens to your report after you submit it.