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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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RAIN INTENSITY

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There is room for some difference of opinion between different observers as to whether a particular shower is light, moderate or heavy; unless, of course, an autographic rain-gauge is available for measuring the rate at which the water comes down, and such instruments are too expensive to be common. In order to give weather observers along the airways criteria for judging rainfall intensity, the U. S. Weather Bureau has adopted the following descriptions:

LIGHT RAIN. When the amount falling within 3 minutes is judged by the observer to be not sufficient to wet through cloth such as that used in making an ordinary suit; individual drops can be identified; spray does not form over pavements, roofs, etc.; sound on roofs ranges from rapid pattering to gentle swishing.

MODERATE RAIN. Ordinary suit cloth wetted through in from 1 to 3 minutes; individual drops not clearly identifiable; spray observable just above surfaces of pavements, roofs, etc.; puddles form fairly rapidly; ordinary run-off channels such as gutters, ditches, etc., accumulate water; down-spouts on buildings run from 1/4 to 1/2 full; sound on roofs ranges from swishing to gentle roar.

HEAVY RAIN. Ordinary suit cloth wetted through in less than 1 minute; rain seemingly falling in sheets, individual drops not identifiable; heavy spray to height of several inches forms over pavements, roofs, etc.; ordinary run-off channels or down-spouts on buildings accumulate water very rapidly and run nearly full to overflowing; water accumulates in streets due to inability of run-off channels to accommodate it rapidly enough; puddles form rapidly; wavelets on water surfaces beaten flat; visibility impaired; sound on roofs resembles continuous roll of drums or distinct roar;

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