



Massachusetts Water Watch

Standard Operating Procedure Rivers-1

For Temperature

Revision 0

WF Walk

Marie-Françoise Walk, MA Water Watch Partnership
Blaisdell House UMass Amherst, MA 01003 413.545.5531

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Date

Richard Chase

Richard Chase, MA DEP, Division of Watershed Management
627 Main St. 2nd floor Worcester, MA 01608 508.767.2859

11/26/01

Date

Arthur Screpetis

Arthur Screpetis, MA DEP, Division of Watershed Management
627 Main St. 2nd floor Worcester, MA 01608 508.767.2875

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Date

Overview

This procedure describes how to measure air and river water temperature with an alcohol thermometer.

1.0 Equipment List

___ 2 standardized, alcohol filled thermometers

___ Field sheet and pencils

___ Watch

2.0 Air Temperature Measurement Protocol

2.1 Remove thermometer from its protective case.

2.2 Check that the alcohol column is not broken, otherwise use your spare thermometer.

2.3 Hang or hold the thermometer by the end opposite from bulb in the shade for 5 minutes.

2.4 Read temperature to the nearest half degree.

2.5 Record temperature on river field sheet.

3.0 Water Temperature Measurement Protocol

3.1 Wade about calf-deep in the water at a representative, flowing-water location (be sure not to disturb the site where you will take samples later).

3.2 Hold the thermometer by the end opposite from bulb so that the bulb is under water but not touching the river bed, for 2 minutes.

3.3 Quickly remove thermometer from water and read temperature to nearest half degree.

3.4 Record temperature on river field sheet.