



NEWS RELEASE

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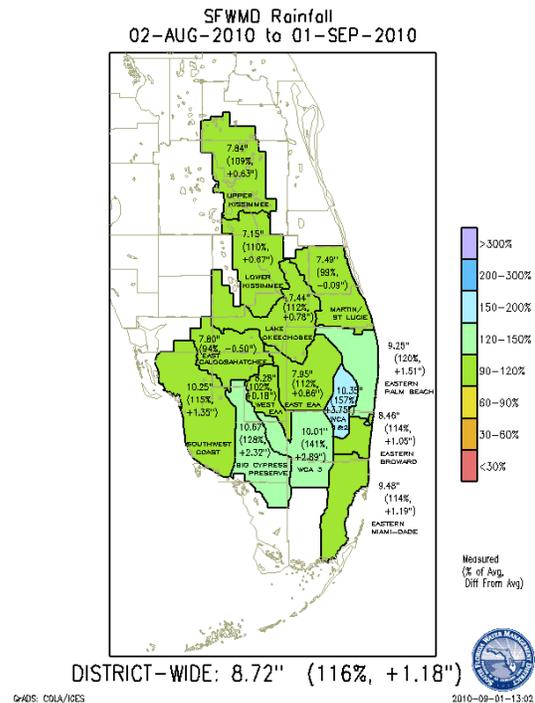
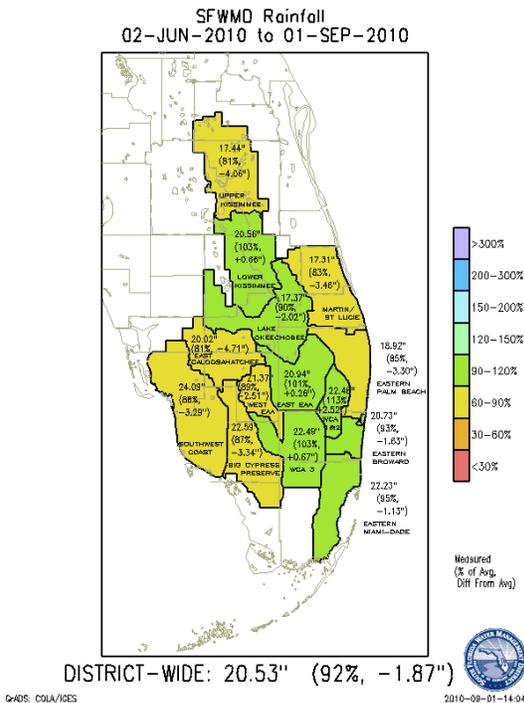
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Rainfall for the Wet Season Lags Behind Average Amounts *August provides above average rainfall yet deficit persists*

Rainy Season Rainfall to Date

August Rainfall



(Click on the graphics for larger versions.)

West Palm Beach, FL – Despite greater than average rainfall District-wide in August, rainfall amounts for the wet season continue to run at a slight deficit. From June 1 through August 31, 20.53 inches of rainfall were recorded District-wide. The historical average for that time is 22.5 inches of rainfall.

During the current wet season, heavy downpours of 3 inches or more have been of a localized nature, with overall District-wide soakings occurring less frequently than average.

“Rainfall amounts during the wet season have created good conditions throughout the regional system, meaning there is water storage capacity in case a storm system moves through,” said Tommy Strowd, SFWMD Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance. “The regional flood control system has responded well to the few larger rainfall events we have seen.”

From the beginning of the rainy season in June through August 31, an average of 20.53 inches of rain fell across the 16-county District. The total represents about 92 percent of the normal rainfall for the three months, or a deficit of around 2 inches.

While June typically produces some of the wettest weeks of the year in South Florida, the six-week period between July 5 and August 15 often provides a lull in the annual rainy season. The District-wide average of 8.72 inches of rain in August was 116 percent of normal, or a rainfall surplus of 1.18 inches.

Once again showcasing Florida’s weather extremes, the rainy season rainfall deficit follows a 2009-2010 dry season that recorded 131 percent of average dry season rainfall. This represents 5.88 inches above normal with an average of 24.67 inches of rain falling throughout the District from the beginning of November through the end of May. The higher than average rainfall total presented challenges for wildlife, particularly wading birds that nest in the Everglades.

Even with above average rainfall, the District was able to perform vital maintenance work to the regional flood control system that normally occurs during the dry season. By the start of the 2010 rainy season, \$240 million had been invested in essential maintenance and upgrade work during the past five years to ensure the system of 2,600 miles of canals and levees operates at optimal capacity and provides effective flood control for South Florida’s 7.5 million residents.



The rainy season lasts from June through October, when South Florida receives about 70 percent of its annual average of 52 inches of rainfall. Flooding may happen when large amounts of rain occur during a short period of time or from a single heavy storm, tropical system or hurricane. Forecasters are calling for above normal tropical activity during the current storm season.

This year, the District also enhanced its annual rainy season preparations by launching a new [webpage](#) with information on the shared responsibilities of flood control in South Florida and what residents, businesses and local governments can do to prepare for a storm.

Complementing the online effort, SFWMD staff hosted a series of rainy season readiness presentations across the region – at county commission meetings, schools

and civic association gatherings – in an effort to continually inform the public about current conditions and citizens’ role in local flood control.

Tips on how residents can prepare for the rainy season are available on the District’s Rainy Season Readiness [website](#). For updates from the District in case of an emergency, follow the District’s Twitter feed: [@SFWMD](#).

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.