



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

August 23, 2012

**CONTACTS:**

**Randy Smith**

South Florida Water Management District  
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

**Gabe Margasak**

South Florida Water Management District  
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

[www.sfwmd.gov/news](http://www.sfwmd.gov/news)

follow us on 

### **SFWMD Prepares for Potential Storm Impacts**

*Water managers closely monitoring weather forecasts*

**West Palm Beach, FL** – With the potential for heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Isaac, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has begun preparations to maximize storage for stormwater runoff to reduce flooding where possible.

With up to several inches of rain forecast, canals and water control structures in Miami Dade-County and the Big Cypress Basin in Collier County have been placed in the low range. The structures will open as needed to maintain canals at levels that will enhance the ability of local drainage facilities to route excess runoff into the District canal system.

Depending on the storm's path and rainfall received, water managers will make adjustments to structures in Broward, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties and the Kissimmee region as necessary. Water levels and flows are monitored around the clock by field staff and the District's Operations Control Room in West Palm Beach.

Pre-storm preparations by the District also include:

- Inspecting key parts of the flood control system
- Ensuring adequate fuel supplies for pump stations and other equipment
- Ready staff and equipment for storm assignments

The District remains in a condition of increased readiness and is coordinating information with the state Emergency Operations Center as well as federal and local partners, including local drainage districts that connect to SFWMD canals.

Throughout the year, the District carries out a robust program to ensure the regional flood control system operates at its full potential. The program includes routine

inspection and maintenance of water control structures, clearing canals of debris and exotic vegetation, strengthening canal banks and other improvements.

As a reminder, complete flood-proofing is not possible in South Florida given the potential for excessive rainfall from storm events.

Residents are urged to review their emergency plans and supplies and stay clear of water control structures, where there may be a rapid water flow even before a storm.

**Useful Storm Links:**

- [Radar & Satellite Images](#)
- [Hurricane Tracking/Tropical Storm Forecast](#)
- [Hurricane and Storm Models](#)
- [FloridaDisaster.org](#)

For updates in case of an emergency, residents and visitors can follow the District's Twitter feed ([@SFWMD](#)) and its list of weather and emergency management tweeters related to South Florida ([@SFWMD/emermanagement](#)).

# # #

**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.*