



NEWS RELEASE

August 2, 2013

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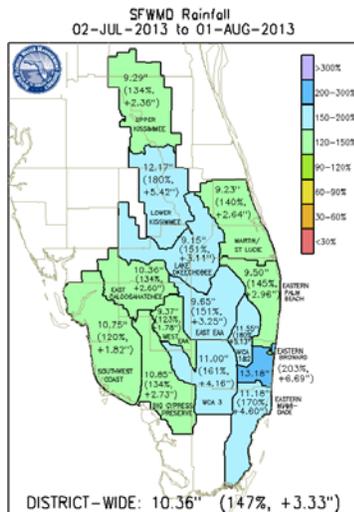
South Florida Water Management District

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July Rainfall Helps Produce Wettest Start to Wet Season Since '68 *All counties in the SFWMD experienced above-average rain for the month*



July Rainfall

- July 2 to Aug. 1 District-wide average = 10.36 inches
- This is 3.33 inches above average.
- May 18 through August 1 was the wettest start to the wet season in 45 years.
- This was the wettest July since 2001.
- (Click on the map for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL — July’s soaking of South Florida capped the wettest start to the wet season since 1968, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) reported today. District meteorologists also reported the wettest April-through-July period on record in South Florida since 1932.

“South Florida is saturated, leaving very few places to move water as we work to keep the system prepared for the peak of the hurricane season,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “Our continual challenge with heavy rainfall is balancing flood control for 7.7 million residents while protecting the region’s wildlife and natural system, including the Everglades.”

District-wide, 10.36 inches of rain fell in July, representing 147 percent of average, or 3.33 inches above average. All 16 counties in the District saw above-average rainfall for the month, with the central portion of South Florida, including Lake Okeechobee, receiving the highest totals.

Early wet season rainfall topped recorded amounts, including:

- Wettest July since 2001
- Wettest June since 2005
- Combination of late May through July led to the wettest start to the wet season since 1968, or the wettest in 45 years
- Wettest April-through-July period on record in South Florida since 1932

Water Levels

Following several months of above-average rainfall, water levels are currently at or above scheduled levels in key areas, such as some lakes in the Kissimmee region and the Everglades Water Conservation Areas.

This included 9.15 inches of direct rainfall over Lake Okeechobee and its immediate area, representing 151 percent of average, or 3.11 inches above average for the month. The lake stood at 15.86 feet NGVD today. This is 2.09 feet higher than its historic average for this date. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which manages the lake level with input from stakeholders including the District, has been making regulatory releases.

From the National Weather Service

- Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport: 15.49 inches in July, wettest July on record since 1913
- Miami Beach: 18.47 inches, wettest July on record since 1927
- Latest outlooks by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center are that the second half of the rainy season may be wetter than normal across South Florida



South Florida Wet Season Facts

- On average, South Florida’s wet season begins around May 20 and ends around October 13, lasting for about 21 weeks.
- Typically, about two-thirds of annual rains fall during the wet season, or approximately 35 inches out of 52 inches.
- June is usually South Florida’s wettest month.
- Since 1932, virtually all wet seasons have produced 2 to 4 feet of rainfall.
- South Florida’s wet season has three general phases:
 - Memorial Day weekend through July 4 weekend, which are typically the wettest six weeks of the year.
 - Early July through mid-August, which are hotter and often drier.
 - Late August through October, which are characterized by highly variable rainfall mainly due to tropical activity and cold fronts.

Track the Wet Season

Monthly Rainfall

Seasonal Rainfall

Click on the graphics or see more SFWMD weather data [here](#).

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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.