



NEWS RELEASE

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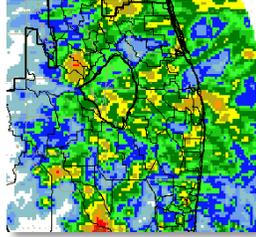
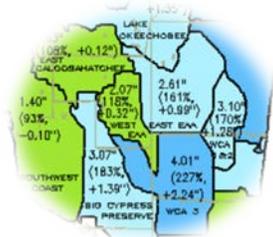
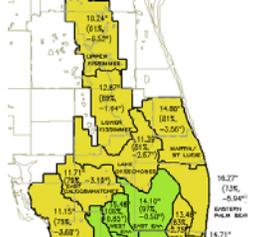
South Florida Water Management District

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June Sees Average Rain; July Off to a Tropical Start
Water managers are monitoring a tropical system off the east coast

Track the Wet Season with SFWMD Online Weather Resources		
<p>Near Real-Time Raindar</p> 	<p>Monthly Rainfall</p> 	<p>Seasonal Rainfall</p> 
<p>Displays rain gauge-adjusted radar estimates</p>	<p>Tracks monthly basin rainfall, updating daily</p>	<p>Provides seasonal rainfall amounts by basin</p>
<p><i>Click on the graphics above, or see more SFWMD weather data here.</i></p>		

West Palm Beach, FL – As water managers monitored Tropical Storm Arthur today, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported the first month of the wet season tallied nearly average rainfall District-wide across 16 counties.

“Because of average June rainfall, the regional water management system had capacity today to accept stormwater from the season’s first tropical system,” said Jeff Kivett, SFWMD Director of Operations, Engineering and Construction. “We continue to closely monitor conditions and make operational adjustments as necessary.”

SFWMD meteorologists forecast a local maximum of 4 to 5 inches through Wednesday night across Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties, with lesser impacts from the system south and west of those areas. Regional canals and water control structures are currently being operated to move stormwater from the tropical system.

Drier air is expected Thursday and Friday.

June Rainfall

For June, a total of 8.09 inches of rain fell District-wide from Orlando to the Keys, representing 98 percent of average, or 0.17 inches below average.

Exceptions to the June average include Martin and St. Lucie counties, the wettest portions of the District with 9.57 inches of rain. This total represented 142 percent of average, or 2.81 inches above average.

In contrast, the Southwest Coast received 7.44 inches of rain, representing 74 percent of average, or 2.55 inches below average.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 12.98 feet NGVD today, which is 0.41 feet below its historic average for this time of year. The lake received 8.14 inches of direct rainfall, representing 117 percent of average, or 1.16 inches above average.

Wet Season Forecast

The National Weather Service's 2014 wet season forecast calls for:

- Near to slightly below-average precipitation, with June potentially being the wettest month relative to normal.
- Above-normal temperatures, 1-2 degrees F, more noticeable in the overnight/early morning.
- El Niño to develop during the summer, which typically places South Florida in a transition zone between Caribbean dryness and slightly more precipitation across the southeast U.S.

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.
- Since 1932, virtually all wet seasons have produced 2 to 4 feet of rainfall.
- June is usually South Florida's wettest month.
- The 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.

Wet Season Preparation
SFWMD maintenance and infrastructure upgrades are critical to the optimal operation of the regional flood control system of nearly 2,100 miles of canals and 2,000 miles of levees and berms. During the past five years, the District has invested \$276 million in essential maintenance work, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hardening pump stations• Overhauling gated spillways• Replacing project culverts• Dredging canals• Stabilizing canal banks• Enhancing treatment wetlands

- Late August through October, which are characterized by highly variable rainfall mainly due to tropical activity and cold fronts.

More information is available at:

- [SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecast](#)

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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.