



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

MEDIA ADVISORY

June 1, 2010

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“Hurricane Freddy” Exercise Tests SFWMD Emergency Response *Media invited to attend annual storm simulation*



(Click on the picture for a larger version)

WHAT: The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will conduct its annual “Hurricane Freddy” exercise Wednesday to once again test the agency’s emergency operations response to and recovery from a major hurricane.

Trained District staff will exercise emergency management and flood control procedures in response to Hurricane Freddy, a simulated Category 1 hurricane. The virtual scenario will include persistent, heavy rainfall and flooding in portions of the District’s 16-county region, challenging water managers to address numerous hurricane-related incidents and demands on the flood control system.

“Conducting emergency exercises is a critical part of the emergency management process,” said SFWMD Emergency Operations and Security Manager Doug Bass. “They test and validate our emergency plans, procedures and training and ensure our operational readiness.”

The exercise will begin with full activation of the SFWMD Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and a situation briefing. Field response teams at District field stations and service centers will also be participating. The SFWMD exercise is usually conducted in conjunction with a state hurricane drill. The state drill will not occur at this time because of the response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

The District encourages the media to observe and participate in the exercise to enhance communications with the agency in the event of a real hurricane emergency.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 2, 2010

TIME: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

WHERE: SFWMD Headquarters
Emergency Operations Center
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

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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.