



**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

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# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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

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## **SFWMD Prepares for Heavy Weekend Rainfall** *Regional flood control system is ready*

**West Palm Beach, FL** — With the potential for heavy rainfall associated with a tropical system, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has begun preparations to maximize storage for stormwater runoff and reduce flooding where possible.

Moisture related to Tropical Depression Rina is forecast to bring an average of 1.75 inches of rain across the District's 16-county region, even without the system making landfall in South Florida. Some local areas could see up to 6 inches through Saturday.

In conjunction with the rainfall forecasts, water control structures in Miami-Dade County will be placed in the low range Friday. 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. Operational changes will be made based on developing conditions throughout the region.

Rainfall during the past seven days was measured at 0.21 inches District-wide and allowed for continued system-wide recovery of water levels following two significant rainfall events earlier this month. October is considered an important transition from the wet season to the dry season, and heavy rainfall events can commonly occur during the month. While the anticipated rainfall has potential to boost water supplies, the long-term forecast for below-average rainfall means the region may face water shortage conditions in the later dry season months.

Along with pre-storm preparations, the District employs a routine maintenance program to help 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.

**Useful Storm Links:**

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

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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.*