



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Water Managers Prepare for "Hurricane Freddy"**

*Annual exercise tests SFWMD's ability to respond to a catastrophic hurricane*

**West Palm Beach, FL** – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will conduct its annual "Hurricane Freddy" exercise on Monday, June 1, to once again test the agency's emergency operations response to and recovery from a catastrophic hurricane.

"The first day of hurricane season is an excellent time to assess the District's readiness for a major storm," said Doug Bass, SFWMD Emergency Operations and Security Manager. "Annual exercises such as Hurricane Freddy help ensure that the District can continue to operate and meet the needs of South Florida residents when an emergency situation does occur."

Trained District staff will exercise emergency management and flood-control procedures in response to Hurricane Freddy, a simulated Category 4 hurricane. The virtual scenario will include severe wind damage and flooding over most of the southern and southwestern portions of the District's 16-county region, challenging water managers to address numerous hurricane-related incidents and demands on the flood-control system.

The exercise will begin at 10 a.m. 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.

Hurricane Freddy will be held in conjunction with "Hurricane Suiter," Florida's statewide hurricane exercise conducted by the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Hurricane Suiter will follow the track of the Great Miami Hurricane of

1926, which made landfall in Miami, exited the state near Fort Myers and struck again in the western Panhandle.

In addition to the District, several other local, state and federal agencies will participate in the emergency exercise, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, county EOCs and local drainage districts.

Balancing the sometimes conflicting missions of flood control, water supply and environmental protection is a daily challenge for the SFWMD. South Florida's weather can transition rapidly from drought to flood, especially during hurricane season from June 1 through November 30. For example, Tropical Storm Fay brought an average of more than 7.5 inches of rain to the region over six days in August 2008, causing flooding in areas that just weeks before were parched from a two-year rainfall deficit.

Flood control in South Florida is a shared responsibility between the District, county and city governments, local drainage districts and residents. More information about the regional flood control system and what residents can do to help prepare for storms is available in the District's [Know the Flow](#) brochure. For more information on the District's emergency operations, please visit the [Emergency Management](#) Web site.

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**About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)**

*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.*