



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

June 2, 2010

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Ready Freddy: Water Managers Prepare for Hurricane Season

Annual "Hurricane Freddy" exercise readies SFWMD for response to major storms



(Click on the picture for a larger version)

West Palm Beach, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today conducted its annual "Hurricane Freddy" exercise as part of the agency's emergency operations readiness for hurricane season.

"The start of hurricane season is the most appropriate time to evaluate the District's readiness for a storm or other emergency," said SFWMD Emergency Operations and Security Manager Doug Bass. "Yearly exercises such as Hurricane Freddy help keep our staff sharp and ensure that the District meets the water management needs of South Florida residents and the environment in an emergency."

Throughout the day, trained District staff practiced emergency management and flood control procedures in response to Hurricane Freddy, a simulated Category 1 hurricane.

The virtual scenario included persistent, heavy rainfall and flooding across portions of the District's 16-county region, challenging water managers to address a variety of hurricane-related incidents and demands on the flood control system.

The exercise began at 8 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 also participated.

As part of its preparations, the District launched a new "Rainy Season Readiness" [website](#) with information on rainfall, flood control and what residents, businesses and local governments can do to prepare for a storm.

Balancing the 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 our [Emergency Management](#) website.

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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.