



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District

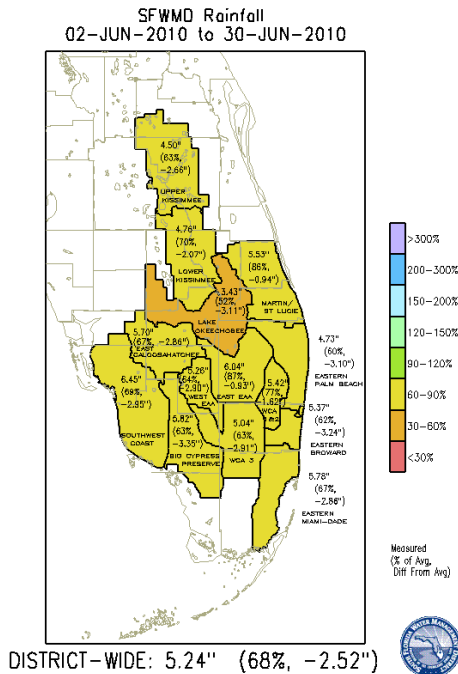
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

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Rainy Days Not Yet Here to Stay

South Florida rainy season off to a slow start; SFWMD prepares just the same



(Click on the graphic for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL — Following above-average rainfall during the dry season, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMMD) meteorologists today reported a dry start to the 2010 wet season.

“This atypical rainfall presented some water management challenges and benefits for the natural system in South Florida,” said SFWMMD Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance Tommy Strowd. “Below normal rainfall in June helped some areas recharge and recover from a wet winter. It also may improve storage capacity in the regional system as South Florida heads into the most active part of the hurricane season later this summer.”

Late June typically produces the wettest weeks of the year. Yet only 68 percent of the

average rain for the month (5.24 inches) fell throughout the 16-county District by June 30. This represents a deficit of 2.52 inches so far for the 2010 rainy season.

Once again showcasing Florida's weather extremes, the latest rainfall deficit follows a 2009-2010 dry season that recorded 131 percent of the average rainfall. This represents 5.88 inches above normal with an average of 24.67 inches of rain falling throughout the District from November to June. The higher than average rainfall total presented challenges for wildlife, particularly wading birds that nest in the Everglades.

Even with above average rainfall, the District was able to perform vital maintenance work to the regional flood control system that normally occurs during the dry season. By the start of the 2010 rainy season, \$240 million had been invested in essential maintenance and upgrade work during the past five years to ensure the system of 2,600 miles of canals and levees operates at optimal capacity and provides effective flood control for South Florida's 7.5 million residents.



The rainy season lasts from June through October, when South Florida receives about 70 percent of its annual average of 52 inches of rainfall. Flooding may happen when large amounts of rain occur during a short period of time or from a single, heavy storm, tropical system or hurricane. Forecasters are calling for above normal tropical activity during the current storm season.

This year, the District also enhanced its annual rainy season preparations by launching a new [webpage](#) with information on the shared responsibilities of flood control in South Florida and what residents, businesses and local governments can do to prepare for a storm.

Complementing the online effort, SFWMD staff hosted a series of rainy season readiness presentations across the region – at county commission meetings, schools and civic association gatherings – in an effort to continually inform the public about current conditions and citizens' role in local flood control.

Tips on how residents can prepare for the rainy season are available on the District's Rainy Season Readiness [website](#). For updates from the District in case of an emergency, follow the District's Twitter feed: [@SFWMD](#).

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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.