



NEWS RELEASE

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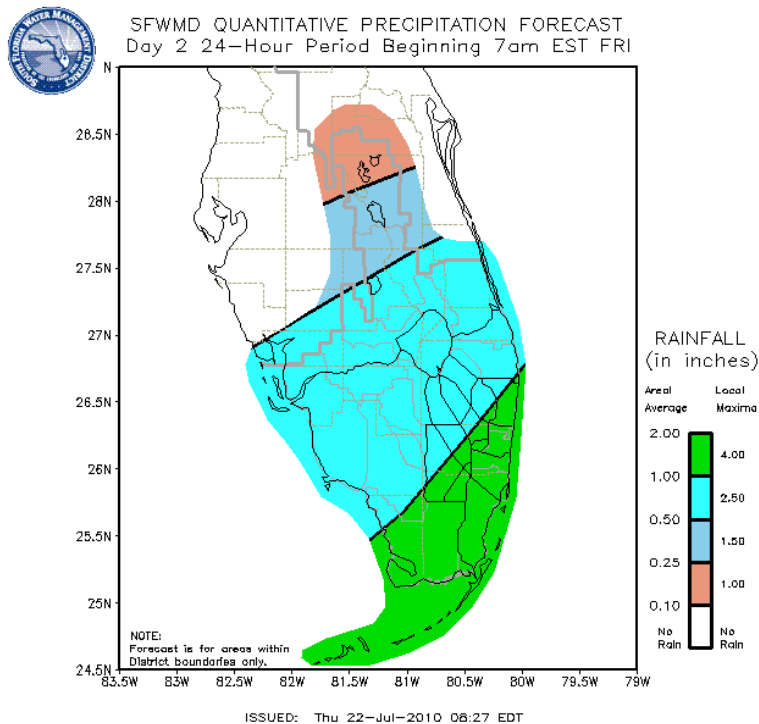
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SFWMD Prepares Flood Control System for Tropical Weather *District is lowering canal levels in anticipation of heavy rainfall*

[Rainfall forecast](#) | [Rainy season rainfall totals](#) | [Storm model plots](#)



(Click the image above to see a rainfall forecast.)

West Palm Beach, FL — With forecasts for Tropical Depression 3 calling for potentially heavy rain and strong winds in areas of South Florida, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is implementing procedures to maximize storage for stormwater runoff and reduce potential flooding.

“The District is well prepared to handle any potential effects this tropical depression may have on South Florida,” said SFWMD Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance Tommy Strowd. “We are taking all the necessary steps in advance of the storm to ensure water moves through the regional flood control system as quickly and efficiently as possible to minimize the potential impact on our residents.”

District meteorologists forecast Tropical Depression 3 could bring an average of 2 inches of rain on Friday along the east coast from Palm Beach County to the Florida Keys. Up to 6 inches of local rain is possible in areas from the tropical depression, which could strengthen to a tropical storm later Thursday.

In response, water managers have made pre-storm adjustments to operating levels for water control structures throughout the regional flood control system. The District is also coordinating with local drainage districts and municipalities whose canals flow into the regional system.

In addition, the District activated its emergency operations center (EOC) on Thursday morning. District operations are closely monitoring the tropical depression for the following counties: Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Lee, Collier and Hendry. Other areas of the District are at increased readiness.

A relatively dry start to the annual rainy season has created additional water storage capacity within the system in advance of the tropical depression. Since June 1, the 16-county District has received an average of 10.24 inches of rainfall, which is 2.42 inches below normal.

During the dry season, the District successfully performed essential maintenance and upgrade work on the regional flood control system. Over the last five years, the District has invested \$240 million to help 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 annual 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 enhanced its 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.

For updates from the District about preparations for Tropical Depression 3, follow the agency’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.