



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# NEWS RELEASE

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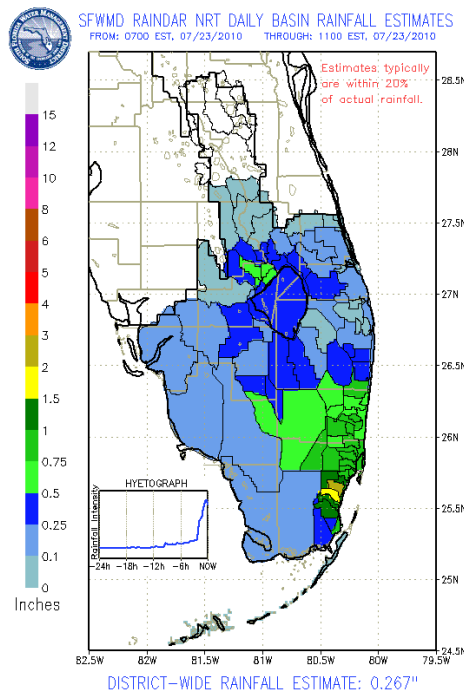
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## SFWMD Moving Water from Tropical Storm Bonnie *No reports of significant flooding as of Friday afternoon*

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



*(Click the image above to see rainfall totals.)*

**West Palm Beach, FL** — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) reported today that the regional flood control system is operating normally and is moving stormwater away from populated areas to prevent potential flooding as Tropical Storm Bonnie moves across the state.

“All of the District’s flood control systems are operating as expected to move water as efficiently as possible to reduce potential impacts on South Florida communities, wildlife and property,” said SFWMD Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance Tommy Stowd. “Extensive preparation that took place before the storm and maintenance on the system completed throughout the year placed us in a good position to handle this tropical event.”

District meteorologists reported the center of Tropical Storm Bonnie came ashore near Biscayne Bay in Miami on Friday morning, dropping an average of one inch of rain across the southeast coast by noon Friday. Some areas could see localized rainfall of four inches or more by the time the storm crosses the state.

No reports of significant flooding had been reported to the District as of Friday afternoon.

In preparation for this rainfall event, water managers 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. The District is closely monitoring the tropical storm for the following counties: Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Lee, Collier and Hendry. Other areas of the District are at increased readiness.

Since June 1, the 16-county District has received an average of 10.30 inches of rainfall, which is 2.58 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 Tropical Storm Bonnie, follow the agency's Twitter feed: [@SFWMD](https://twitter.com/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.*