



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# NEWS RELEASE

September 29, 2010

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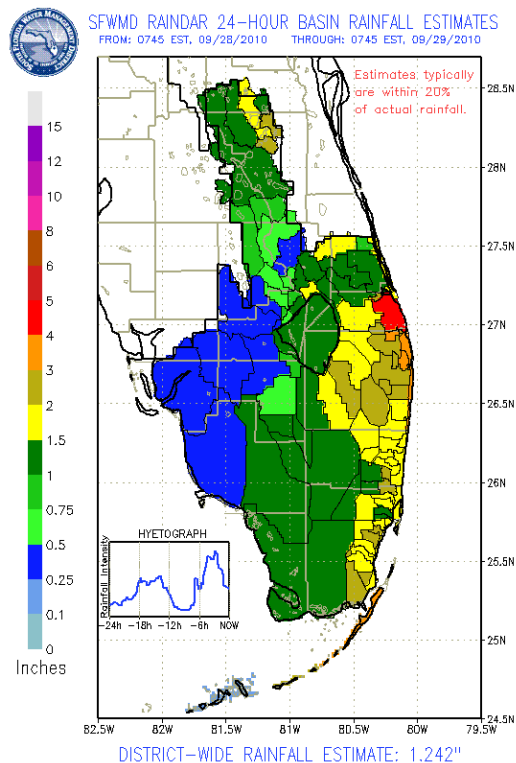
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## SFWMD Moving Water from Tropical Depression 16 *District increased storage by lowering canal levels prior to the rainfall event*

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



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

**West Palm Beach, FL** — With heavy rain from Tropical Depression 16 now falling and strong wind gusts forecast in areas of South Florida later today, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is moving water through the regional flood control

system after implementing procedures to maximize storage for stormwater runoff and reduce potential flooding.

“As always, the District is taking swift action to handle the effects of this rainfall event on South Florida,” said SFWMD Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance Tommy Strowd. “We are taking every necessary step to ensure water moves through the regional flood control system as quickly and efficiently as possible to minimize any potential impacts on residents.”

District meteorologists forecast an average rainfall of 2.25 inches with basin averages of 5 inches. Local rains of 8 to 10 inches are possible by 8 a.m. Thursday. The District-wide rainfall average from 7 a.m. on Monday to 6 a.m. on Tuesday was 1.16 inches. Tropical Depression 16 is forecast to become a tropical storm today.

#### **6 a.m. Basin Rainfall Snapshot**

- **Kissimmee:** Average = 1.16 inches; Local Max = 4.54 inches
- **Coastal Martin County:** Average = 4.08 inches; Local Max = 7.09 inches
- **C-18 (Palm Beach County):** Average = 2.56 inches; Local Max = 5.63 inches
- **S6 (Western Palm Beach):** Average = 2.24 inches; Local Max = 3.05 inches
- **C-111 (Miami-Dade):** Average = 1.75 inches; Local Max = 2.49 inches
- **C-9 (Southern Broward):** Average = 1.66 inches; Local Max = 2.19 inches

In anticipation of this rainfall, 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.

Since the 2010 rainy season began on June 1, the 16-county District has received an average of 25.2 inches of rainfall, which is 3.55 inches below normal.

During the preceding dry season, the District successfully performed essential maintenance and upgrade work on the regional flood control system. During 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 had called 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.

## Regional Status Report

- **Kissimmee Basin/Istokpoga:** All Kissimmee Basin lakes remain at or near schedule with water levels rising in response to rainfall during the past 24 hours. The Kissimmee River flows are increasing in response to direct rainfall and, as of 7 a.m. today, were about 700 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the S65-E structure north of Lake Okeechobee.
- **Lake Okeechobee:** The lake level is 14.06 feet NGVD, which is 0.04 inches higher than Tuesday. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers monitors the C-43 and C-44 canals and makes flood control releases for local basin runoff as needed.
- **Martin/St. Lucie:** All water control structures are available for flood control. The community of Verano was approved for pre-storm releases because the regional system has capacity.
- **Palm Beach:** All water control structures are available for flood control. The following areas of known concern were approved to implement pre-storm adjustment of their internal system because the regional system has capacity: Indian Trail Improvement District; the City of West Palm Beach at Old Okeechobee and Australian (Carver Canal); and the Lake Worth Drainage District.
- **Broward:** All coastal canals have acceptable water levels and remain in low range. The community of Southwest Ranches was approved to begin pre-storm adjustments of its internal system because the regional system has capacity.
- **Miami:** All canals have acceptable water levels and remain in low range. All water control structures, including coastal pump stations, are available for flood control.
- **Homestead:** All canals have been placed in low range. Pre-storm operations have been implemented in the L-31N/C-111 canal (South Dade Conveyance System). This is done through coordination with the Corps.
- **Lower West Coast:** All canals are within the acceptable range, and all water control structures are available for flood control.

For weather and emergency management updates from the District, 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.*