

moisture into South Florida. Water managers are making adjustments to coastal canals and structures in advance of the rain.

“The challenge this wet season is that many areas of the District have already seen a full season of rainfall, and October can be a very active storm month. We continuously prepare and adjust the system for weather extremes,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “With many lakes and storage areas still full from Tropical Storm Isaac, we are coordinating with local water managers to prepare for moving water as quickly and as safely as possible.”

2012 Wet Season So Far

Overall for the 2012 wet season, the SFWMD has seen 37.53 inches of rain District-wide, or 114 percent of average. Nearly all portions of the District received above average rainfall.

District weather records show that the six-month period from April, just before the official start to the wet season, through September, surpassed longstanding totals:

- Broward County experienced the wettest April through September since 1955.
- Miami-Dade County experienced the third wettest April through September since 1932.
- Palm Beach County experienced the eighth wettest April through September since 1939.
- Water Conservation Areas 1 and 2 in Palm Beach and Broward counties experienced the wettest April through September since 1957.
- Water Conservation Area 3 experienced the wettest April through September since 1963.

The largest rainfall totals for this year’s wet season so far include:

- Eastern Miami-Dade: 136 percent of average, or 13.22 inches above average
- Eastern Broward: 127 percent of average, or 9.24 inches above average
- Eastern Palm Beach: 126 percent of average, or 8.95 inches above average

The Southwest Coast and Big Cypress Basin were slightly behind:

- Eastern Lee and Collier counties: 90 percent of average, or a deficit of 4.02 inches
- Big Cypress: 94 percent of average, or a deficit of 2.08 inches

September Rainfall

As a whole, the District’s 16 counties experienced an average of 6.61 inches of rainfall in September, or 97 percent of the historic average for the month.

The central swath of South Florida, including the Upper Kissimmee Basin near Orlando, the East Caloosahatchee Basin, the Big Cypress Basin and Miami-Dade and Broward counties, received near or slightly above average rainfall for the month. This includes Lake Okeechobee, which stood at 15.63 feet NGVD today, representing 0.74 feet above its historic average for this date. A total of 7,751 cubic feet of water per second was

flowing into the lake today, enough to fill 307,000 residential swimming pools in one day.

Martin, St. Lucie and eastern Palm Beach counties, along with the Southwest Coast's Lee and eastern Collier counties experienced about an inch or more of rainfall deficit. In Palm Beach County, the drier conditions helped water levels in the area recover back to seasonal levels.

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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.