



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### CONTACTS:

#### **Randy Smith**

South Florida Water Management District  
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

#### **Gabe Margasak**

South Florida Water Management District  
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

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### **SFWMD Ready for Rain as Hurricane Sandy Travels Offshore** *High tides and winds will likely amplify storm-related impacts to coastal areas*

**West Palm Beach, FL** — With a forecast for potentially significant rain and wind from Hurricane Sandy as it travels near Florida, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will complete preparations today to maximize storage for stormwater runoff to reduce flooding where possible.

With up to several inches of rain forecast, regional canals and water control structures along the east coast have been placed in lower ranges. The structures will operate as needed to maintain canals at levels that will enhance the ability of local drainage districts to send stormwater runoff into the District canal system.

Because of seasonally high tides and also wind expected from the storm, coastal areas from Broward County south to Miami-Dade and Monroe counties are likely to experience high water and road flooding near the shore. Many of these areas are outside the control of the District's water management structures.

Pre-storm preparations by the District also include:

- Inspecting key parts of the regional flood control system
- Coordinating conference calls with more than 100 local government, drainage district and community water managers on Wednesday. Coordination calls will continue throughout the expected event.
- Readying the 900-acre C-4 Emergency Detention Basin in Miami-Dade County to receive stormwater
- Preparing temporary pumps for deployment if necessary

The District is also assisting officials with pre-storm activities in areas previously impacted by Tropical Storm Isaac to ensure they have maximum storage available for this event. An emergency, 100-foot flow-way built after Isaac is fully operational to help

protect the berm near the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area and adjacent communities.

Along with pre-storm preparations, the District carries out a routine maintenance program to help ensure the regional flood control system operates at its full potential. The program includes routine inspection and maintenance of water control structures, clearing canals of debris and exotic vegetation, strengthening canal banks and other improvements.

Even with these precautions, complete flood proofing is not possible in South Florida given the potential for excessive local rainfall from storm events.

**Useful Storm Links:**

- [Radar & Satellite Images](#)
- [Hurricane Tracking/Tropical Storm Forecast](#)
- [Hurricane and Storm Models](#)
- [FloridaDisaster.org](#)

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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.*