



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Responding to Initial Effects of Hurricane Sandy
Regional flood control system is operating to move water from the storm

West Palm Beach, FL — With the east coast of South Florida experiencing the effects of Hurricane Sandy's fringes today, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is operating the regional flood control system to maximize storage for stormwater runoff associated with the storm.

Over a 24-hour period through midday today, the heaviest rains from Sandy had fallen in eastern Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Basin averages in those areas measured 0.8 to 1.7 inches, with local maximums up to 2.7 inches.

As Hurricane Sandy continues moving generally north offshore of Florida, forecasts are calling for average rainfall of 2 to 2.5 inches through Friday night from Miami-Dade County north through St. Lucie County, with the heaviest rainfall expected to start this evening. Local rainfall from the storm could be up to 4 to 5 inches.

Water managers are closely monitoring regional water levels and flows around the clock from the District's Operations Control Room at its headquarters in West Palm Beach. Field station crews are standing by to make operational adjustments as necessary. In addition, the District is continuing to hold regular conference calls to coordinate with local government, drainage district and community water managers.

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

The District completed its pre-storm preparations for Hurricane Sandy on Wednesday. Regional canals and water control structures along the east coast were 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 regional system.

Pre-storm preparations by the District also included:

- Inspecting key parts of the regional flood control system
- Assisting officials with pre-storm activities in areas previously impacted by Tropical Storm Isaac to ensure maximum storage is available

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.