



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# NEWS RELEASE

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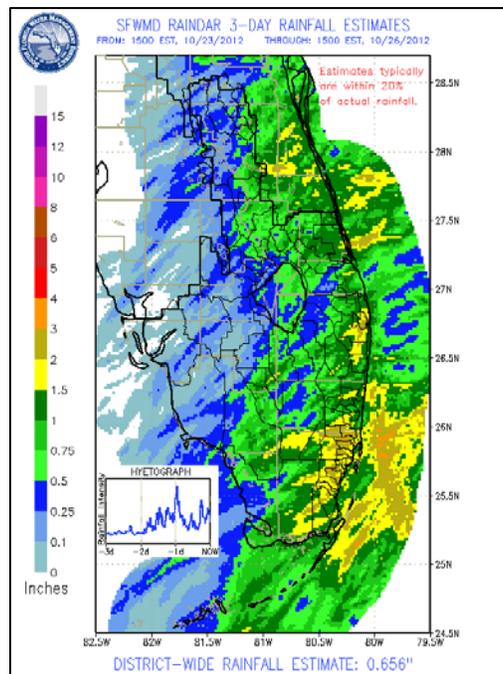
South Florida Water Management District

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## Regional Flood Control System Responding to Hurricane Sandy *Storm's effects on South Florida expected to fade Saturday*



*This three-day rainfall estimate map was generated from radar and rainfall gauges. (Click on the map for a larger version.)*

**West Palm Beach, FL** — The regional flood control system operated by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is continuing today to respond well to rainfall from Hurricane Sandy's outer bands. After the storm moves away from South Florida's east coast, the District will then return canals to seasonal levels, balancing the agency's flood control and water supply missions.

The heaviest rains today are falling in coastal portions of Palm Beach County north to Martin and St. Lucie counties. District meteorologists forecast an average of 1 to 2

inches of rain for the area through early Saturday morning, with local maximums of 3 to 4 inches possible.

Through mid-afternoon today, average District-wide rainfall for the past three days was estimated at 0.656 inches, with local maximums of more than 3 inches in eastern Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Hurricane Sandy's effects on the region are expected to fade Saturday, with no rainfall in the weekend forecast.

Water managers are continuing to closely monitor regional water levels and flows around the clock from the District's Operations Control Room at its headquarters in West Palm Beach. The District has also been coordinating throughout the storm event 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 still 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**

The District completed its pre-storm preparations in anticipation of Hurricane Sandy on Wednesday. Regional canals and water control structures along the east coast were placed in lower ranges, and inspections were conducted on key parts of the regional system. The structures are being operated as needed to maintain canals at levels that will enhance the ability of local drainage districts to send stormwater runoff into the regional system.

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.*