



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# NEWS RELEASE

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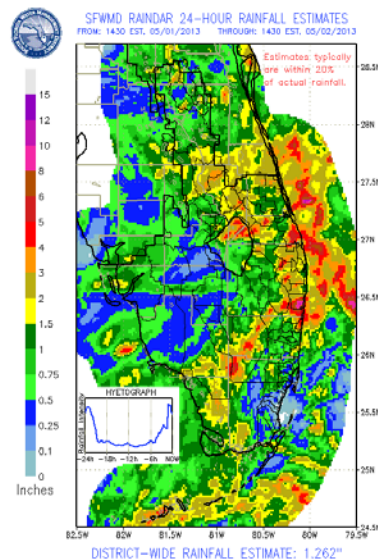
South Florida Water Management District

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## SFWMD System Responds to Heavy Rainfall *Flood control system is operating as designed*



*(Click on image for a larger version.)*

**West Palm Beach, FL** – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is actively moving water from a strong, sustained and ongoing rainfall event through the regional flood control system. Periods of significant rainfall are expected to continue over portions of the District during the next 24 to 48 hours.

Areas including Delray Beach and Boynton Beach received torrential rainfall this afternoon of up to 10 inches in a 3-hour period. The lower Kissimmee Basin also experienced heavy rainfall, recording 6 inches of rain in three hours this morning.

“While the regional flood control system is operating as designed, residents will likely continue to see high water levels in lakes, swales and water catchment areas until well after the rainfall ends,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “We continue to move water, monitor the situation and make adjustments as necessary.”

Between noon and 3 p.m. today, Lake Ida in Delray Beach experienced a rapid increase in water level, from 8.07 feet to 10.3 feet. During that time, the storm was nearly stationary as heavy rainfall persisted in the area.

According to District radar rainfall estimates, local maximums in the past 24-hour period include:

- Delray Beach – 10.5 inches
- Boynton Beach – 8.4 inches
- Boca Raton – 6.59 inches
- Lake Okeechobee – 6.4 inches

Given this amount of rain in such a short time period, runoff is very heavy and must move through local systems to reach the District's flood control structures. The District continues to work with local municipalities and drainage districts to ensure a coordinated response as the water moves through these integrated systems.

In addition, the District is closely monitoring rainfall in the Acreage area due to flooding last year during Tropical Storm Isaac. At this time, there are no current reports of flooding there.

To report flooding or damaged or blocked water control structures, call the SFWMD Citizen Information Line toll-free at (877) 429-1294.

Residents and visitors can follow the District's Twitter feed ([@SFWMD](#)) and also its list of weather and emergency management partners in South Florida ([@SFWMD/emermanagement](#)).

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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.*