



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

MEDIA ADVISORY

May 19, 2014

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Gabe Margasak

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

Randy Smith

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

www.sfwmd.gov/news

follow us on 

Ready 'Freddy': SFWMD Prepares with Hurricane Exercise *Media is invited to observe the drill at the agency's Emergency Operations Center*

WHAT: The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will conduct its annual "Hurricane Freddy" exercise this week to practice the agency's emergency operations response to and immediate recovery from a catastrophic hurricane.

Test Scenario:

- "Freddy" has already made landfall as a powerful Category 4 hurricane in southern Miami-Dade County, resulting in a swath of extensive damage across the southern region of the SFWMD.
- The storm brought strong winds, storm surge as high as 15 feet, heavy rainfall totaling 10 inches, damaging tornadoes, loss of communications, debris in canals and widespread power outages across various parts of the District.
- SFWMD flood control operations are impaired in Miami-Dade, which saw winds of 130 to 140 mph. Broward, Hendry and Glades counties also experienced extensive damage from the storm.



The annual exercise is designed to challenge water managers to address potential hurricane-related incidents and demands on the flood control system. "Hurricane Freddy" operations will begin with full activation of the SFWMD Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and a situation briefing. Field response teams at District field stations and service centers will also be participating in the training exercise.

Members of the media are invited to observe the exercise as a way to enhance communications with the agency in the event of a real storm emergency.

- WHEN:** Thursday, May 22, 2014
- TIME:** 11 a.m. to noon
- WHO:** SFWMD emergency managers and support staff
- WHERE:** SFWMD Headquarters
Emergency Operations Center
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

#

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.