



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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MEDIA ADVISORY

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SFWMD E-Briefing: Drought Remains Despite Recent Rains
Residents and businesses are asked to continue water conservation efforts



(SFWMD, 3-06-09, Click on picture for larger version.)

An alligator walks through a part of Water Conservation Area 2 west of Boca Raton that would normally require the reptile to swim.

West Palm Beach, FL – In an effort to keep the public informed about the dry conditions gripping much of the state, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is issuing the following latest conditions report.

Recent rainfall was focused on the east coast, with the heaviest precipitation occurring in Broward County. While the rainfall was welcome, it did little to replenish the primary regional storage systems – the Water Conservation Areas and Lake Okeechobee. As sunny weather returns, evaporation increases and water levels will continue to drop in the Water Conservation Areas and the lake until adequate rainfall reverses that trend.

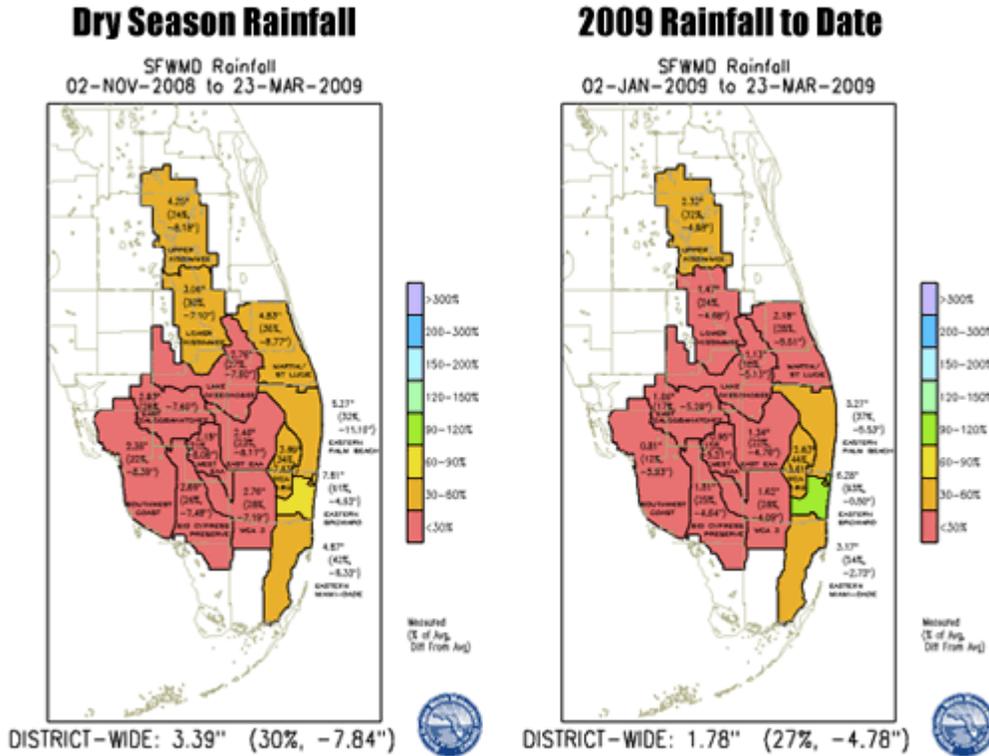
Water conservation remains the best defense.

The SFWMD is closely monitoring water levels and is urging residents and businesses to conserve water and follow landscape irrigation restrictions to stretch the public supply. More information about limits by area is available on the District's [water restrictions](#) Web site.

District-Wide Averages as of March 23, 2009

RAINFALL to Date, Jan. 2 - March 23:	1.78 inches
DEFICIT to Date, Jan. 2 -- March 23:	- 4.78 inches
DRY SEASON DEFICIT, Nov. 2, 2008 - March 23:	- 7.84 inches
LAKE OKEECHOBEE:	March 23, 2009: 12.34 March 23, 2008: 10.26

Rainfall Maps



Click on images above for higher resolution versions.

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About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)

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.