



NEWS RELEASE

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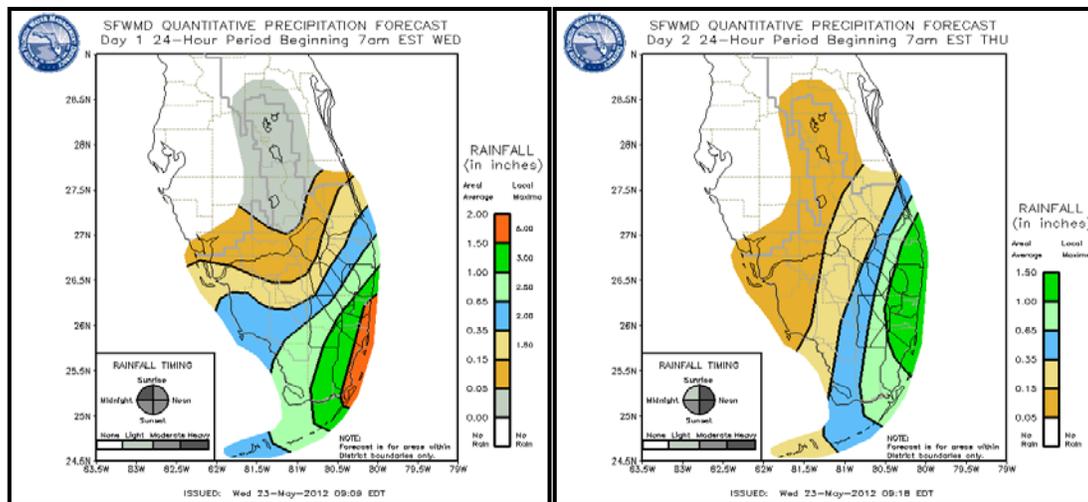
South Florida Water Management District

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Flood Control Structures are Moving Water Quickly and Efficiently *Heavy rainfall in Miami-Dade County is expected to continue*



Miami-Dade County, FL – Due to extreme rainfall in some parts of Miami-Dade County, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is operating the extensive flood control system as it was designed to move large amounts of water quickly and efficiently.

Intense rainfall during the past 24 hours caused some localized flooding, particularly in the areas of Sweetwater, Doral and West Miami.

The heaviest rainfall on Tuesday and early Wednesday was centered in the areas of Sweetwater and Doral, where more than 8 inches of rain fell in less than six hours. A National Weather Service rain gauge at Miami International Airport detected 9.73 inches in less than six hours. The District’s field station gauge recorded 6.13 inches of rain.

“The system is working as it was designed to minimize flooding near homes and businesses,” said SFWMD Director of Operations, Maintenance and Construction

Tommy Strowd. “Hundreds of millions of gallons of water have been pumped out of the area that would otherwise threaten buildings.”

More than 200 million gallons of water from this rain event have already flowed into the C-4 Emergency Detention Basin, a 900-acre impoundment area that was built by the District in response to local flooding from Hurricane Irene in 1999 and an unnamed storm in 2000. The overall project is providing improved flood protection to 500,000 residents and to 5,000 homes and businesses.

District meteorologists are forecasting localized rainfall totals up to 5 inches overnight in parts of Miami-Dade County. On Thursday, forecasters are expecting less intense, continuous rainfall in the area.

In anticipation of the forecasted rainfall, regional canals have been drawn down and have significant capacity to accept a large amount of additional stormwater runoff. The District’s coastal structures and pump stations are being operated to accommodate the excess flows.

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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.