



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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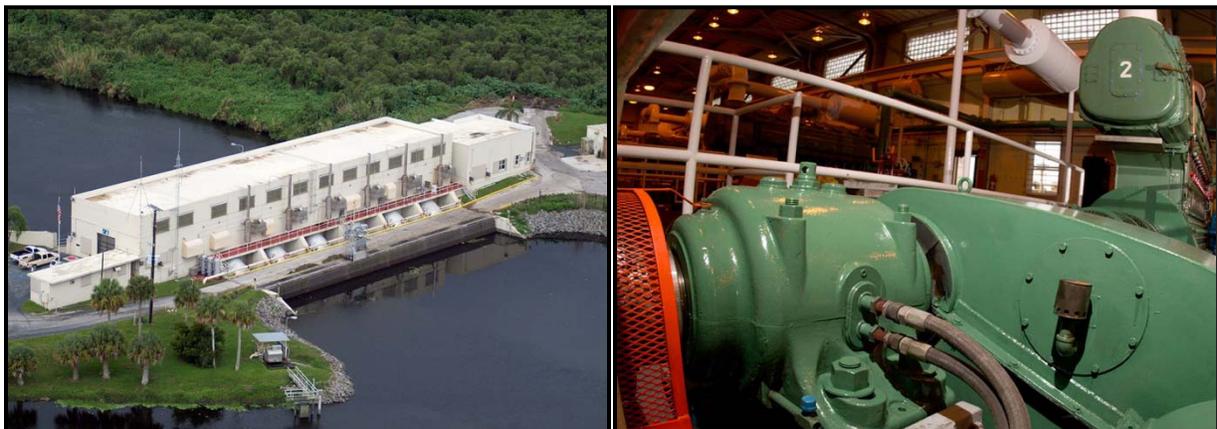
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Ready Freddy: Water Managers Prepare for Hurricane Season
Annual "Hurricane Freddy" exercise readies SFWMD for response to storms



(A portion of the exercise was conducted at the SFWMD's largest capacity pump station west of Wellington. Click on the pictures for larger versions.)

West Palm Beach, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today conducted its annual "Hurricane Freddy" exercise as part of the agency's emergency operations readiness for hurricane season.

"Heavy rainfall in recent weeks shows how quickly we must be able to transition from very dry conditions to flood control operations," said Tommy Strowd, SFWMD Division Director of Operations, Maintenance & Construction. "Annual training, including the agency-wide hurricane exercise and maintenance of the regional system, are among the critical tools that improve our readiness for storm season."

Throughout the day, trained District staff practiced emergency management and flood control procedures in response to Hurricane Freddy, a simulated Category 4 storm hitting the east coast of South Florida. The virtual scenario included persistent, heavy

rainfall and flooding across portions of the District's 16-county region, challenging water managers to address a variety of hurricane-related incidents and demands on the flood control system.

The exercise began at 8 a.m. with full activation of the SFWMD Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and a situation briefing. Response teams at District field stations and service centers also participated, along with operators at the S-5A pump station on State Road 80. First put into service in 1955, the station is designed to mitigate flooding in the 230-square-mile area served by the West Palm Beach Canal and can pump 3.1 billion gallons of water in 24 hours. This is accomplished using six, 10-cylinder diesel engines with a combined 9,600 horsepower.

With the start of the rainy season, the District also posts a "Rainy Season Readiness" [website](#) with current information on rainfall, flood control operations and steps residents can take to minimize local flooding. Throughout South Florida, flood control is a shared responsibility between the District, county and city governments, local drainage districts and residents. More information about the regional flood control system and what residents can do to help prepare for storms is available in the District's [Know the Flow](#) brochure. For more information on the District's emergency operations, please visit our [Emergency Management](#) website.

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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.