



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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



*(Click on the picture for a larger version.)*

**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.

“This year’s Hurricane Freddy exercise had the added training value of a real, multi-day rainfall event occurring simultaneously,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “Managing more than 11 inches of actual rain while conducting the agency-wide hurricane exercise provided both real-world and virtual practice, further improving 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 that made landfall on the lower west coast and came across the Kissimmee and Orlando areas as a Category 2 hurricane. 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.

As District staff responded to Freddy in the virtual world, on-duty SFWMD water managers operated the regional flood control system following a District-wide average of 0.975 inches of rain across 16 counties over three days, through early Tuesday afternoon. The heaviest rainfall from the multi-day rainfall event was concentrated on Florida's east coast.

This included radar-based estimates of maximum rainfall during that time of:

- 8.43 inches on Coral Gables
- 7.44 inches in coastal Palm Beach County
- 5.95 inches in coastal Broward County
- 6.81 inches in Everglades National Park
- 7.48 in western Collier County

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.*