



# NEWS RELEASE

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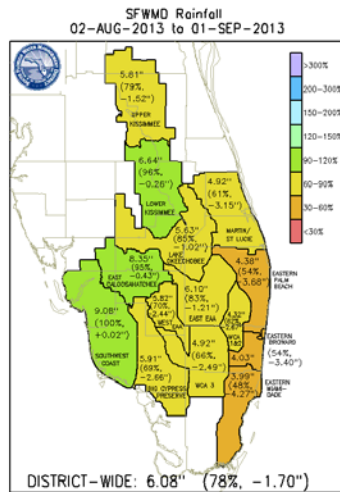
South Florida Water Management District

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## August Provides Rainfall Reprieve for South Florida *Most basins in SFWMD experienced below-average rain for the month*



### August Rainfall

- Aug. 2 to Sept. 1 District-wide average = 6.08 inches
- This is 1.70 inches below average.
- It was the driest August since 2007.
- Click on the map for a larger version.

**West Palm Beach, FL** — Following the wettest start to the wet season since 1968, drier conditions in August curtailed the rise of water levels throughout the South Florida Water Management District’s (SFWMD) 16-county region.

“August provided a much needed respite from four months of heavy rainfall across the region,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “Water managers have been using this drier period to regain storage in the system needed for the rest of the wet season.”

District-wide, 6.08 inches of rain fell in August, representing 78 percent of average, or 1.70 inches below average. Most of the 16 counties in the District experienced below-average rainfall for the month, with the east coast of South Florida receiving the least amount of rain. In contrast, the Southwest Coast and the Caloosahatchee Basin saw about average rainfall.

The drier August followed wet season rainfall that included:

- Wettest July since 2001
- Wettest June since 2005

- Combination of late May through July months led to the wettest start to the wet season since 1968, or the wettest in 45 years
- Wettest April-through-July period on record in South Florida since 1932

### Water Levels

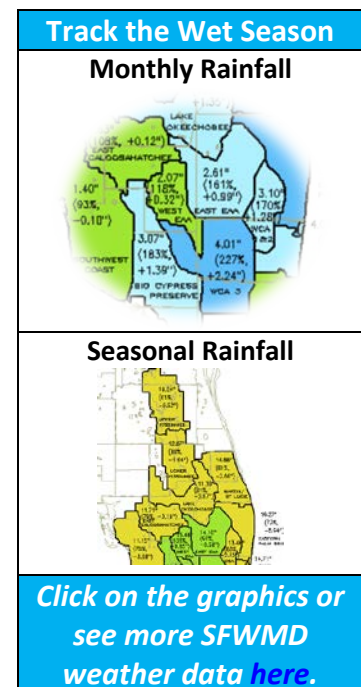
Even with drier conditions following prolonged above-average rainfall, many areas of the District remain higher than their target levels for this time of year. This includes higher levels in key locations such as Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3 and Lake Okeechobee, which did experience below-average rainfall for the month of August.

A total of 5.63 inches of rainfall was recorded directly over the lake and its immediate area, representing 85 percent of average, or 1.02 inches below average for the month. The lake stood at 15.55 feet NGVD today. This is 1.30 feet higher than its historic average for this date. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which manages the lake level with input from stakeholders including the District, has been making regulatory releases since May.

The Kissimmee River floodplain, Lake Istokpoga, Fisheating Creek, Taylor Creek and Nubbin Slough areas north of Lake Okeechobee are also still experiencing the effects of heavy rainfall, as are the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, the DuPuis Management Area and the Holey Land and Rotenberger wildlife management areas.

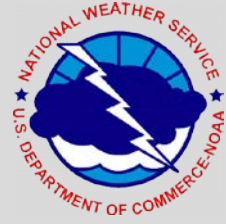
### South Florida Wet Season Facts

- On average, South Florida’s wet season begins around May 20 and ends around October 13, lasting for about 21 weeks.
- Typically, about two-thirds of annual rains fall during the wet season, or approximately 35 inches out of 52 inches.
- June is usually South Florida’s wettest month.
- Since 1932, virtually all wet seasons have produced 2 to 4 feet of rainfall.
- South Florida’s wet season has three general phases:
  - Memorial Day weekend through July 4 weekend, which are typically the wettest six weeks of the year.
  - Early July through mid-August, which are hotter and often drier.
  - Late August through October, which are characterized by highly variable rainfall mainly due to tropical activity and cold fronts.



### From the National Weather Service

- Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport: 2.04 inches in August; 4<sup>th</sup> driest August on record
- Homestead General Airport: 3.46 inches in August: 2<sup>nd</sup> driest August on record
- LaBelle: 2nd wettest August on record since the late 1920s
- Latest outlooks by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center are above-normal rainfall for September and about equal chances of above or below normal temperatures and rainfall through November.
- September and October represent the peak of the hurricane season.



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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.*