



# NEWS RELEASE

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South Florida Water Management District

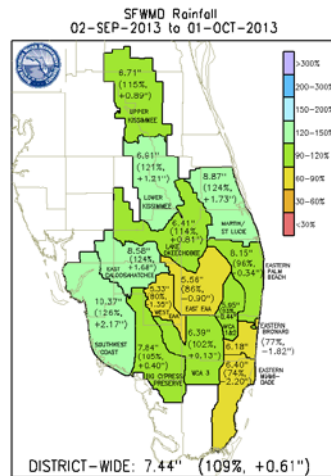
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## Above-Average Rain Returns in September

*Following an August reprieve, most SFWMD basins again saw wet conditions*



### September Rainfall

- Sept. 2 to Oct. 1 District-wide average = 7.44 inches
- This is 0.61 inches above average for September.
- 5 of the past 6 months have produced above-average rainfall
- Click on the map for a larger version.

**West Palm Beach, FL** — Above-average rain fell across most basins in the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in September, following a brief period of below average rain that slowed the rise of water levels in August.

“Water levels are at or near target levels for this time of year in many areas, although we continue to see some areas such as Water Conservation Area 3 well above normal,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “Water managers continue to operate the system in a flood control mode as we are in the peak months of the hurricane season.”

District-wide, 7.44 inches of rain fell in September, representing 109 percent of average, or 0.61 inches above average. Most of the 16 counties in the District experienced above-average rainfall for the month. However, three counties on the east coast — Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade — ranged from 0.34 inches below average to 2.20 inches below average.

## Water Levels

Key locations such as Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3 and Lake Okeechobee continue to experience high water levels.

A total of 6.41 inches of rainfall was recorded directly over the lake and its immediate area, representing 114 percent of average in September, or 0.81 inches above average for the month. The lake stood at 15.91 feet NGVD today. This is 1.04 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.

## 2013 Wet Season to Date

- 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
- Wettest April-through-September period District-wide since 1960

### From the National Weather Service

- Areas of Collier County received more than 15 inches of rain.
- Juno Beach (12.84 inches) and Naples East/Golden Gate (11.73) had some of the highest rainfall totals in South Florida.
- Latest outlooks by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center are for an increased likelihood of above-normal rainfall for October and about equal chances of near, above or below normal precipitation for the last three months of the year.
- September and October represent the peak of the hurricane season.

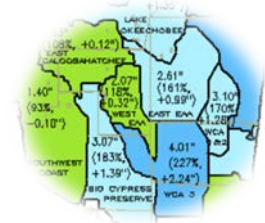


## South Florida Wet Season Facts

- 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.

### Track the Wet Season

#### Monthly Rainfall



#### Seasonal Rainfall



Click on the graphics or see more SFWMD weather data [here](#).

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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.*