



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### MEDIA CONTACTS:

#### **Randy Smith**

South Florida Water Management District  
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

#### **Gabe Margasak**

South Florida Water Management District  
Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

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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.

“Today’s training is an invaluable component of the District’s rainy season readiness,” said SFWMD Executive Director Blake Guillory. “Each year, new lessons learned are put into practice, and we continually refine our operations to be very well prepared.”

Throughout the day, trained District staff practiced emergency management and flood control procedures in response to Hurricane Freddy 2014, a simulated Category 4 storm.

### **This Year's Test Scenario:**

- "Freddy" has already made landfall as a powerful Category 4 hurricane in southern Miami-Dade County, resulting in a swath of extensive damage across the southern region of the SFWMD.
- The simulated storm brought strong winds, storm surge as high as 15 feet, heavy rainfall totaling 10 inches, damaging tornadoes, loss of communications, debris in canals and widespread power outages across various parts of the District.
- SFWMD flood control operations are impaired in Miami-Dade, which saw virtual winds of 130 to 140 mph. Broward, Hendry and Glades counties also experienced extensive damage from the storm.



In time for "Freddy," the District introduced its [@SFWMD\\_EM](#) Twitter account that will be dedicated to emergency management information. During emergency situations such as hurricanes, the District will tweet regular updates for the general public and media. The new Twitter feed will also be used throughout the year to share tips to help South Florida residents stay prepared.

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.*