



NEWS RELEASE

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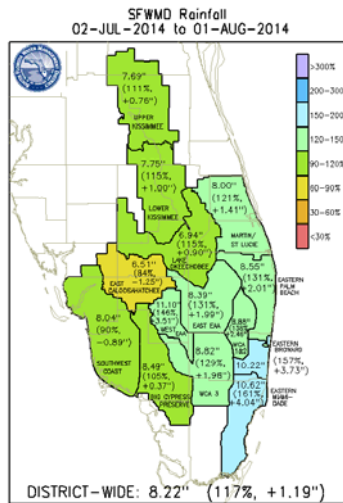
South Florida Water Management District

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July Sees Above-Average Rainfall *Water managers are again monitoring a tropical system*



(Click on the map for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported today above-average rainfall fell throughout most of the 16 counties in July. Water managers also began the new month monitoring a tropical system.

“Water levels are rising across the region, and we continue to operate the system with a focus on wet season flood control,” said Jeff Kivett, SFWMD Director of Operations, Engineering and Construction. “District engineers adjust the system and monitor water levels closely as tropical systems and above-average rainfall have the potential to quickly change conditions.”

Tropical Storm Bertha was too far away from Florida on Friday to determine potential impacts to the regional system.

July Rainfall

For July, a total of 8.22 inches of rain fell District-wide from Orlando to the Keys, representing 117 percent of average, or 1.19 inches above average. Miami-Dade and

Broward counties were the wettest portions of the District, with both receiving more than 150 percent of average rainfall. Eastern Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties also received more than 120 percent of average rainfall.

An exception in the system was the East Caloosahatchee basin, which received 6.51 inches of rain, representing 84 percent of average or 1.25 inches below-average.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 13.94 feet NGVD today, which is 0.18 feet above its historic average for this time of year. The lake received 6.94 inches of direct rainfall, representing 115 percent of average, or 0.90 inches above average.

Wet Season Forecast

The National Weather Service's today issued the following outlook:

- Latest outlooks by NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) are for equal chances of above, below or near-normal precipitation for the second half of the rainy season.
- Past years with similar atmospheric conditions have produced below normal rainfall during the second half of the rainy season.
- The CPC outlook for August to October also calls for the likelihood of above normal temperatures.

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.
- Since 1932, virtually all wet seasons have produced 2 to 4 feet of rainfall.
- June is usually South Florida's wettest month.
- The 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.

Wet Season Preparation
SFWMD maintenance and infrastructure upgrades are critical to the optimal operation of the regional flood control system of nearly 2,100 miles of canals and 2,000 miles of levees and berms. During the past five years, the District has invested \$276 million in essential maintenance work, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hardening pump stations• Overhauling gated spillways• Replacing project culverts• Dredging canals• Stabilizing canal banks• Enhancing treatment wetlands

More information is available at:

- [SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecast](#)

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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.