



NEWS RELEASE

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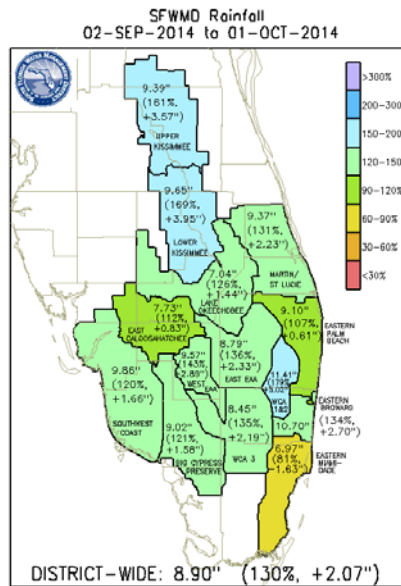
South Florida Water Management District

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Heavy Rain Focuses on Kissimmee During Above Average September *Water levels continue to be monitored throughout the region*



(Click on map for larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – Significant rain fell on the Kissimmee basins in September, increasing flows into Lake Okeechobee and leaving the month as a whole with well above average rainfall across the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), meteorologists reported today.

September was the wettest month of the wet season so far and the wettest September in 10 years in the District.

“This season, we have sent as much water south as practicable from Lake Okeechobee in addition to creating and using local water storage options to better store and control local flows,” said Jeff Kivett, SFWMD Director of Operations, Engineering and Construction. “Historically, the month of October brings increased tropical activity, and meteorologists are forecasting the wet weather will continue in the coming days.”

September Rainfall

Much of the month's rainfall came during the past two weeks, with the upper and lower Kissimmee basins each experiencing more than 160 percent of average rainfall for the month:

- Upper Kissimmee received 9.39 inches, or 3.57 inches above average
- Lower Kissimmee received 9.65 inches, or 3.95 inches above average

These heavy rains significantly increased the flow of water into Lake Okeechobee. Total inflow of water into the lake rose to 16,030 cubic feet per second as of Wednesday, compared to 9,892 cubic feet per second about two weeks ago.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 15.39 feet NGVD today, which is 0.50 feet above its historic average for this time of year. The lake received 7.04 inches of direct rainfall in September, representing 126 percent of average, or 1.44 inches above average.

District-wide, a total of 8.92 inches of rain fell from Orlando to the Keys, representing 130 percent of average, or 2.07 inches above average. Eastern Miami-Dade was the only basin to experience below-average rainfall, with 6.97 inches representing 81 percent of average, or 1.63 inches below average.

South Florida Wet Season Facts

- On average, South Florida's wet season begins around May 20 and ends around October 13, lasting about 21 weeks.
- Typically, about two-thirds of South Florida's 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.

Annual Wet Season Preparations
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.