



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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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.

“The District manages \$13 billion of infrastructure, with 2,000 miles of canals, 80 pump stations and 700 gates and weirs,” said SFWMD Executive Director Blake Guillory, P.E. “When a storm hits, moving water through this system protects the 8 million residents in our region. This annual exercise keeps us prepared for the hurricane season ahead.”

Throughout the day, trained District staff practiced emergency management and flood control procedures in response to Hurricane Freddy 2015, a simulated major storm.

#### **2015 Year’s Test Scenario:**

- “Freddy” was 160 miles southeast of West Palm Beach, moving northwest from the central Bahamas at 20 mph with sustained winds of 100 mph.



- SFWMD teams convened to analyze the storm before it made landfall, including modeling the potential impacts to flood control operations.
- The storm made landfall on the eastern coast of South Florida as a major hurricane, bringing between 8 and 10 inches of rain in localized areas.

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 [Rain Drain: What to Expect in Your Neighborhood When it Rains](#) 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.*