



NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Gabe Margasak

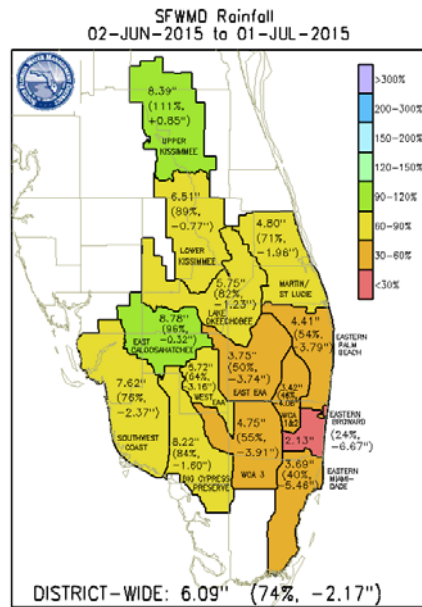
South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

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Below-Average Rainfall Continues in June *Most areas of South Florida saw significant rainfall deficits*



(Click on map for larger version)

West Palm Beach, FL — June rainfall was well below average across most of South Florida, with eastern areas seeing advancing drought conditions, meteorologists at the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) reported today.

May rainfall was also below average, and SFWMD weather records show this year’s District-wide May/June period was the driest since 2004 and the ninth driest since recordkeeping began in 1932.

A total of 6.09 inches of rain fell across 16 counties in June, representing 74 percent of average, or 2.17 inches below average.

The Lower East Coast saw the driest regional conditions, and the U.S. Drought Monitor lists a swath of the region from Everglades National Park north through Martin and

St. Lucie counties as ranging from abnormally dry to experiencing severe drought conditions. Rainfall deficits were also seen in areas, including:

- Broward County registered as the driest area in the District with only 2.13 inches of rain for the month, which was the driest June there since 1952. This represents 24 percent of average, or 6.67 inches below average.
- Miami-Dade County recorded 3.69 inches of rain, representing 40 percent of average, or 5.46 inches below average. Both counties were listed by the U.S. Drought Monitor as experiencing severe drought conditions.
- Palm Beach County recorded 4.41 inches of rainfall, representing 54 percent of average, or 3.79 inches below average.
- The Southwest Coast saw 7.62 inches of rain, representing 76 percent of average, or 2.37 inches below average.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 12.21 feet NGVD today. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which manages the lake, federal water managers prefer to maintain water levels between 12.5 feet and 15.5 feet to help balance competing demands such as public safety, water supply and environmental health.

The only area to see above average rainfall was the Upper Kissimmee Basin, with 8.39 inches of rain, representing 111 percent of average, or 0.85 inches above average.

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.
- 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.

More information is available at:

- [SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data](#)
- [U.S. Drought Monitor Florida](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecast](#)
- Interactive "Moving Water South" map: www.sfwmd.gov/movingwatersouth

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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.