



NEWS RELEASE

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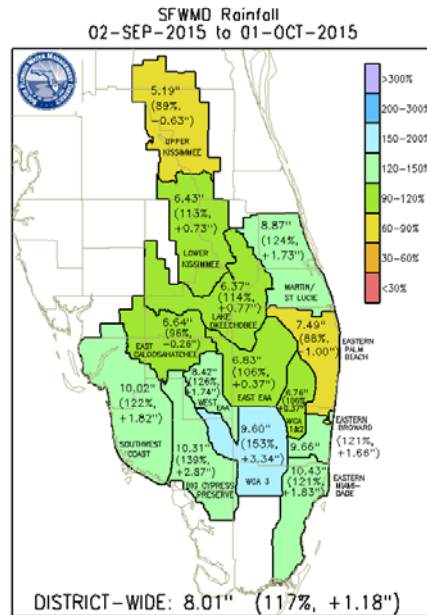
South Florida Water Management District

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September Sees Above-Average Rainfall *Some previously dry parts of South Florida received rainfall relief*



(Click on map for larger version)

West Palm Beach, FL — A large portion of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) received above-average rainfall totals in September, District meteorologists reported today.

An average of 8.01 inches of rain fell across 16 counties in September, representing 117 percent of average, or 1.18 inches above average. With the start of October, the District is closely monitoring Hurricane Joaquin and is ready to implement storm preparations if necessary.

Areas that had previously seen drought conditions received significantly above-average rainfall, including:

- Miami-Dade County received 10.43 inches of rain, representing 121 percent of average, or 1.83 inches above average.

- Broward County received 9.66 inches of rain, representing 121 percent of average, or 1.66 inches above average.
- Martin and St. Lucie counties received 8.87 inches of rain, representing 124 percent of average, or 1.73 inches above average.

Palm Beach County was the lone below-average rainfall area on the east coast, with 7.49 inches of rain, representing 88 percent of average, or 1 inch below average. The Upper Kissimmee was the only other area of the District to see slightly below-average rainfall.

Western parts of Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties are still listed as being abnormally dry, but none of South Florida is experiencing drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 14.75 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.

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 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 is typically the wettest six weeks of the year.
 - Early July through mid-August is hotter and often drier.
 - Late August through October is 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](#)

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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 flood control, water quality, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.