MANAGING FLOOD WATER

Before and After the Storm
Before and After the Storm

Marshes and swamps once covered our tropical-like region
Our terrain is low and flat, and seasonal rainfall can be intense.
Before and After the Storm

This land is now home to more than 8.1 million people
The South Florida Water Management District operates the regional flood control system:

- 2,100 miles of canals
- 2,000 miles of levees
- 600 structures
- 625 culverts
- 70 pumping stations

Before and After the Storm

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

sfwmd.gov
Before and After the Storm

SFWMD role:

• Monitor weather conditions and water levels around-the-clock

• As needed, open gates to lower water levels in primary canals in anticipation of expected inflows

• During and after heavy rains, route excess water through waterways to storage or coastal discharge points
Optimum flood control is a three-tiered system – functioning much like a roadway system.

Before and After the Storm
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It starts in your community...
Before and After the Storm

Raining vs Draining
Before and After the Storm

Secondary canals connect to farm and neighborhood systems
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Major canals receive inflows & move water into storage or to the coast
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The three systems must all work together
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Heavy rain in a short period of time may result in flooding.
Before and After the Storm

4 to 6 inches of rain in a 24-hour period

What to expect:

- Standing water in yards, swales and ditches
- Crowns of road should remain passable
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7 to 10 inches of rain in a 72-hour period

What to expect:

• Roads, as well as swales, ditches and yards flood

• Buildings should remain dry
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10 to 20 inches or more of rain in a 72-hour period

What to expect:

- Many houses and businesses can be expected to flood
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Flood Factor:
Surface waters cannot receive new water if they are full or flow is blocked
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Flood Factor:
Water cannot soak into the ground if the water table is high – results in ponding and standing water.
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Flood Factor:

High tides and on-shore winds inhibit discharge capability to the coast
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Flood Factor:
Older neighborhoods with no, or limited, community drainage systems in place are prone to flooding.
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Shared Responsibility

Communities play a key role in managing flood situations
Before and After the Storm

Shared Responsibility

Drainage facilities should be regularly maintained
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Shared Responsibility

System components should not be obstructed
Before and After the Storm

Shared Responsibility

Control structures must be functioning to prevent blockages
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**Shared Responsibility**

Grassed water storage areas need regular mowing
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Shared Responsibility
Side slopes should be checked for erosion
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Shared Responsibility

Washouts of dikes and berms should be repaired
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Shared Responsibility

Rights-of-way must not be obstructed
Before and After the Storm

Shared Responsibility

Clear rights of way help improve flood protection

Before

After
Before and After the Storm

South Florida flood control basics:

• Flat terrain and intensive rains
• Drainage is through a 3-tiered water control system, which starts at the neighborhood level
• To function properly, all components must be kept in working order
• Always check with permit requirements before making significant repairs/upgrades
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**Tip:** Keep a list of pertinent numbers and websites for reporting drainage problems

- Homeowners’ Association/Property Manager
- City, County, Local Drainage Districts
- South Florida Water Management District
Before and After the Storm

We work year-round to prepare for the rainy season

Are YOU ready?
Before and After the Storm

June is Flood Awareness Month

Follow the leader...and learn how we work to help keep your feet dry during the wet season.

Learn More

www.sfwmd.gov