

Weekly Update: October 12, 2005



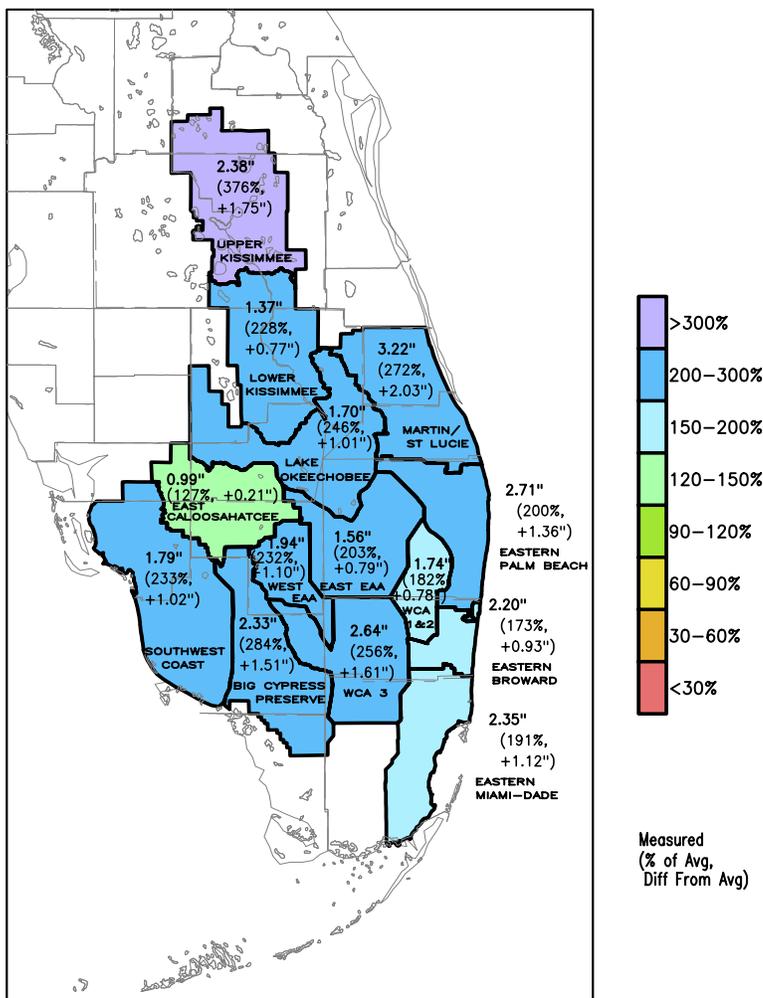
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**FACTs**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in south Florida.

**State of the Water Management System**

*To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.*

SFWMD Rainfall  
04-OCT-2005 to 10-OCT-2005



**DISTRICT-WIDE: 2.05" (238%, +1.19")**

GrADS: COLA/IGES

2005-10-11-12:03

**Rainfall overview:**

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was approximately 2".
- Rainfall for the next 7 days is forecast to be below average.
- Outlook for the remainder of the wet season is for an increased likelihood of above average rainfall.
- Florida Keys rainfall for the month of September was 8".



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## State of the Water Management System

**Weekly Update:** October 12, 2005 (page 2)

### System-wide overview:

District-wide rainfall from July through October was 119% of average. Current monthly rainfall is 238% of average, with the upper basin at 376% of average.

**Lake Okeechobee** — Lake level is at 15.60 ft NGVD, up 0.19 ft since last week. Last year on this date, the lake was 2.41 ft higher as a result of rains from hurricanes Frances and Jeanne. Poor weather conditions last week prevented field crews from collecting monthly vegetation data and making bloom observations. New updates will be available next week.

**Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin** — The upper basin received 2.38" of rain to bring the 30-day total to 4.25", which is 88% of normal. The lower basin received 1.37", which brings the 30-day total to 3.84", or 82% of normal. Stage for upper basin lakes are at regulation schedule except for lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha, which are below schedule. Vegetation management continues to treat for floating plants.

**St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries** — There were no releases from Lake Okeechobee during four days of the past week. The Florida Oceanographic Society reports that water clarity is fair to poor, and dissolved oxygen is fair to good in the St. Lucie Estuary. Freshwater extends at least down to Ft. Myers in the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Salinity conditions in both estuaries are poor.

**Water Conservation Areas** — All depths increased. However, WCA-1 remains below regulation schedule, and WCA-2A and WCA-3A remain above regulation schedule. Prolonged deep water may stress trees in these areas as well as the foraging and breeding activities of mammals, reptiles and some birds.

**Everglades National Park** — Rain gauges were damaged during Katrina, so data from the park is still interrupted and patchy. Rainfall during the past week ranged from 2" to 6".

*Note: This rainfall information is based on rain gauges within the park. The map on page one captures District rain gauge data only.*

**Florida Bay** — Higher salinity bay water was reported at both the mouth of the Taylor River and at McCormick Creek during the past week. This was likely a result of strong southerly winds. The salinity in those locations appeared to be declining as of Oct. 10.

**Algae Update** — Monitoring continues on blue-green algae in Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie River/Estuary, Caloosahatchee River, Kissimmee River/Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and the District's eastern canals at 41 fixed monitoring sites.

Toxin results, which are updated regularly, as well as frequently asked questions and related links, can be found on the District's blue-green algae web site at <http://www.sfwmd.gov/site/index.php?id=611>.

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*\* SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage Lake Okeechobee. Water releases from the lake are made in accordance with a federally authorized regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.*