

## Water Talk

Get the facts...

## SEVEN FAST FACTS ON FLOOD CONTROL

### The Lake Worth Drainage District

Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD) is a Special District of the State of Florida that manages flood control for 200 square miles in southeastern Palm Beach County. It is one of the largest water control districts in the state with over 500 miles of drainage canals and associated rights-of-way.

In addition LWDD provides water supply to several municipal well fields.

LWDD was created in 1915 for the purpose of reclaiming the lands within its boundaries and for the further purpose of providing water control and water supply for settlement and agriculture.



#### Lake Worth Drainage District

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The following *Seven Fast Facts* will help get you started on becoming an informed partner in providing quality flood control

**Fast Fact 1** The community or neighborhood drainage system is always operating. Stormwater continually discharges from community systems until the designed water elevation is achieved.

**Fast Fact 2** The community cannot open its discharge control structure without authorization from LWDD. Doing so can put the community in jeopardy because canal water may back-flow into lake systems.

**Fast Fact 3** Authorization to open a discharge control structure is only given under emergency conditions and when LWDD canals are able to accept the additional increase of stormwater.

**Fast Fact 4** Severe Flooding most often occurs in older communities without modern stormwater systems, neighborhoods with poor maintenance practices and rainfall exceeding the drainage design.

**Fast Fact 5** Community drainage (neighborhood) systems discharge into LWDD canals (local system) which discharge into South Florida Water Management District canals (regional system). Each entity must capture and hold stormwater as well as coordinate discharges at appropriate times and rates.

**Fast Fact 6** Rainfall affects within the boundaries of LWDD:

- 5 to 6 inches of rainfall in a 24 hour period, expect standing water in yards, swales and ditches. Crowns of community road should remain dry and passable.
- 7 to 9 inches of rainfall in a 72 hour period, expect community swales, roads, lawns and driveways to flood as designed. Finished floors of homes should remain dry.
- 15 to 23 inches or more of rainfall in a 72 hour period, expect that some houses and businesses may experience finished floor flooding.

**Fast Fact 7** Homeowners can help prevent flooding by NOT placing trash bags in road swale or throwing debris into lakes or canals thus blocking the flow of water. Avoid planting or placing encroachments in the canal rights-of-way which can restrict access and cause delays for emergency response.

It's easy to increase your knowledge about community flood protection. Visit the LWDD website at [www.lwdd.net](http://www.lwdd.net) or send your questions and comments to [info@lwdd.net](mailto:info@lwdd.net).