

November 2016

## Hurricane Matthew Lessons Learned

### *District prepared for near-miss storm*



Several days prior to the predicted landfall of Hurricane Matthew, the District began pre-storm preparations by inspecting its 1,000 miles of canal rights-of-way and lowering canal water elevations in coordination with the South Florida Water Management District. The

District then authorized residential communities to open their neighborhood discharge control structures in order to lower lake levels and provide additional on-site stormwater storage.

Several calls were received regarding high water levels within lakes after the authorization and some residential communities reported damage to their discharge control structure mechanisms during operation. Communities are reminded that it is important the District knows who is responsible for the operation of the community's control structure to ensure they are receiving important weather alerts and emergency instructions.

For more information on the District's storm preparedness operations or to update the community's contact information, visit <http://www.lwdd.net/property-managers-hoa>.

## When To Water Your Lawn

### Watch the weather and water your lawn only when needed

South Florida residents can play a significant role in conserving water resources by only watering lawns when needed. It is estimated that we each use between 25-50 percent of our water demand for irrigation. Typically, lawns need only 3/4 to 1 inch of water each week. The easiest way to determine if your yard needs water is to look for these visual signs: grass blades are folded in half lengthwise on at least one-third of your yard; grass blades appear blue-gray; and grass blades do not spring back, leaving footprints on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it.



Watch the weather and wait to water. If your yard is showing signs that it is in need of water, check the local forecast to see if rain is on the way. Take full advantage of the rain by directing gutter

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## Pencil Us In

- [November 11](#)  
District Office Closed for Veterans Day
- [November 16](#)  
Board of Supervisors Meeting
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## Picture This!

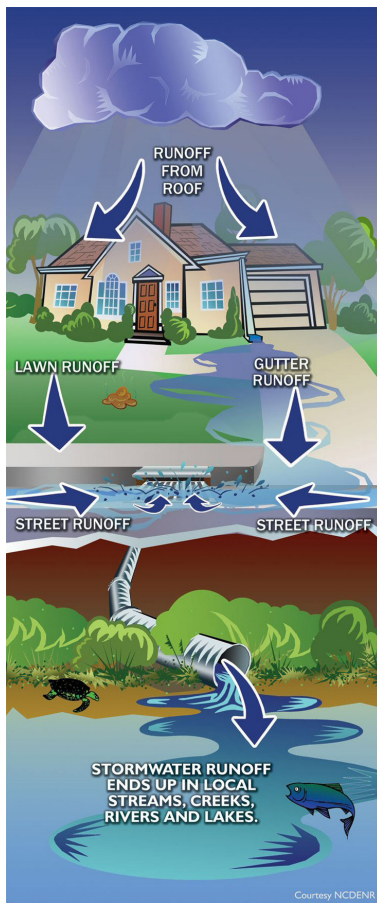


Cutting and mulching vegetation at the same time makes for efficient canal clearing

downspouts into landscaped areas or lawns. Excess rain can also be captured and stored in a rain barrel for future use. If irrigation is needed, ensure your sprinkler system is programmed to only run on the specified days and times in accordance with the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule. For more information on watering days and times and tips on water conservation visit [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov).

## Managing Residential Water Pollution

*If it falls on the ground, it can end up in the water*



Water is made available to us through a process called the water cycle. The process begins with the evaporation of water from the earth's surface. The sun heats the water creating a moisture vapor that rises into the atmosphere. When the atmosphere cools, the vapor condenses to form clouds. Eventually, the clouds will release moisture in the form of rain or snow depending on your location. When the rain hits the ground, some of this surface water will infiltrate, helping to recharge the underground aquifer. Some of the surface water will run off into canals. Finally, some of the surface water will be reheated by the sun and the water cycle will continue.

In our area of south Florida, we get our drinking water from surface water supplies. Surface water will runoff roof tops, over lawns and roadways into the storm drains or inlets. As this water travels across the surface it picks up sediment, trash, fertilizers, pesticides and oils

washed off streets and lawns. Surface water will eventually flow through underground pipes making its way into the canal system which recharges the surficial aquifer and some municipal well fields.

[Read More](#)

Residents can take simple steps to reduce or eliminate residential water pollution. Do not over apply fertilizers or pesticides on lawns and use specific spot treatments rather than general broadcast application methods. Spray on windless days and not before or during rain events. Dispose of unused paint and household chemicals correctly. Never dump them into toilets, sinks, storm drains or canals. Chemicals such as chlorine are very toxic to fish and animals. When draining hot tubs or pools, direct the water away from the canal. Wash cars with a minimum of detergent and wash on gravel or lawns to avoid runoff entering storm drains and canals. Sweep your walks and driveways instead of using a garden hose which can wash litter and pollutants into storm drains and canals. Remember, if it falls on the ground, it can end up in the water.

## Canal Maintenance Program, Part 2

*District provides flood control with scheduled mowing*

[Click here to watch!](#)

## That's a Good Question



Who controls the water elevation in Lake Ida?

[Click here for the answer!](#)

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If you have any suggestions or comments on this issue, or have questions or topics you would like us to cover in future issues, please email us [info@lwdd.net](mailto:info@lwdd.net).



Effective flood control is dependent on well-maintained canals and rights-of-way. In order to meet this challenge, District personnel are in the field daily to maintain canals and ensure the system is operating efficiently. Mowing of canal banks and rights-of-way is an important part of our flood control program.

The District mows most of its 1,000 miles of canal rights-of-way approximately four times per year. This quarterly mowing rotation provides for operational access to canals for emergency response and regular maintenance. Tractor-mowers maintain the top of the canal bank with arm-mowers maintaining the side slope of the canals.

Care is taken to avoid damaging private property. However, irrigation lines, sprinkler heads and other items located within the District's rights-of-way are there at the owner's risk and owners will not be reimbursed for damages. Some areas within the District's boundary may be inaccessible to equipment and crews and due to personnel safety, these areas may not be regularly maintained.

*(This is the second in a four part series on canal maintenance. Next month will feature encroachment removal.)*

### Water Manager's Lingo

**Retention vs. Detention Ponds:** Retention ponds maintain a permanent pool of water that fluctuates throughout the year and holds stormwater runoff following rain events. Detention ponds hold water for a short period of time; this pond temporarily holds water before it enters the canal.

## Contact Us

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