FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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FLORIDANS REMINDED TO PRACTICE SAFETY OVER FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) reminds all Florida’s residents and visitors to practice safety over the upcoming Fourth of July holiday, and to continue to monitor the weather throughout the state, as tropical moisture brings wet conditions across the state through the end of the week. An elevated risk of rip currents is also expected along many of Florida’s beaches this week, and all beachgoers should check the beach warning flags before entering the water.

“Being aware of the weather in your area, and knowing the precautions you should take are the keys to a safe and enjoyable celebration this Fourth of July holiday,” said Bryan W. Koon, Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. “Using caution and taking extra time on wet and rainy roadways, checking beach warning flags before swimming at Florida’s beaches, and practicing fire safety when enjoying fireworks are some simple steps you can take to ensure you and your loved ones stay safe.”

Areas throughout the state have experienced rainy conditions throughout this week, and flooding remains a concern in low lying areas. The National Weather Service has issued a Flood Watch for portions of the Big Bend and Panhandle through Friday Morning. Be sure to monitor local conditions and follow all instructions from local officials. When driving, it is important to use caution and allow for extra time to travel to your destination. Do not drive onto flooded roadways. Remember, Turn Around, Don’t Drown.

An elevated risk of rip currents is expected along many of Florida’s beaches this week. A high risk of rip currents is currently forecasted through Friday along Panhandle beaches, and a moderate risk of rip currents is expected along portions of the Florida Gulf Coast as well as the Atlantic Coast through Saturday. Beachgoers are encouraged to check the rip current outlook before visiting the beach, review beach warning flags when at the beach, and to always swim within sight of a lifeguard. Additional information can be found at www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov.

For more information about severe weather in Florida, the 2013 Hurricane Season, and how you can to Get A Plan!, visit www.FloridaDisaster.org, and follow FDEM on Twitter at @FLSERT, on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/FloridaSERT and www.Facebook.com/KidsGetAPlan.

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