



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012

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FLORIDA RESIDENTS ADVISED TO STAY ALERT AS STORM SYSTEM BRINGS POTENTIAL FOR SEVERE WEATHER ACROSS THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE TODAY AND TONIGHT

TALLAHASSEE – State and local emergency management officials are recommending residents and visitors in the Florida Panhandle and Florida Big Bend stay alert as a storm system moves into the area today through Friday morning. This storm system will have the potential to produce frequent lightning strikes, high wind gusts, and isolated tornadoes.

“A squall line of thunderstorms will enter the Florida Panhandle this afternoon and move eastward tonight into the Florida Big Bend region, before moving through the Florida Peninsula on Friday,” said State Meteorologist Amy Godsey. “The Storm Prediction Center has placed much of Northwest Florida in an area for an enhanced risk of severe storms and we encourage residents, visitors, and businesses to monitor this weather system and be prepared to follow any instructions if warnings are issued.”

A Tornado Watch is in effect until 5pm CST Thursday for Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton and Washington Counties. Additional tornado watches may be extended eastward throughout the day. Residents and visitors to the state should monitor local media outlets and ensure that their NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio alert settings are turned on.

A Tornado Watch means conditions are favorable for tornadoes and severe thunderstorms. A Tornado Warning means a tornado has been reported as sighted, or been picked up on radar in the area.

For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management and to GET A PLAN!, please visit: www.FloridaDisaster.org. Follow us on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/FLSERT or on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/FloridaSERT.

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