



For Immediate Release
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MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“Residents across Northwest Florida are urged to follow the progress of Tropical Depression Five, heed local advisories, and be prepared to implement their family disaster plans,” said David Halstead, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. “All Floridians should continue to follow the activity in the tropics and take this time to update their plans and check their disaster survival kits.”

NEW INFORMATION- 2 P.M.

- Northwest Florida residents and visitors need to closely follow Tropical Depression Five and be prepared to implement their disaster plans.
- Mobile home residents and visitors need to heed any local evacuation orders, if issued.
- Mariners need to make preparations to secure their vessels in safe harbor.
- Residents should review their family disaster plans and ensure their disaster survival kits are fully stocked. Residents should also remember to plan for their pets.

CURRENT SITUATION / STATE ACTIONS

- The National Hurricane Center has begun issuing advisories on newly formed Tropical Depression Five, located about 175 miles south of Pensacola, Florida.
- Maximum sustained winds are near 30mph and Tropical Depression Five is moving northwest around 12mph.
- There is a chance that Tropical Depression Five could become Tropical Storm Danielle late this evening just prior to making landfall.
- Tropical Storm Warnings have been posted for the north-central Gulf Coast between Destin, Florida, and Intracoastal City, Louisiana. This includes the Florida counties of Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa.

- This system is currently expected to move inland over the central Gulf Coast near the Mississippi and Louisiana border early Thursday morning.
- It is important to remember that most of the associated weather with weak tropical systems is typically removed from the center, so residents and visitors should not focus only on the specific projected path.
- Impacts to the Florida Gulf coast are expected to be minor and may include minor coastal erosion, isolated waterspouts or tornadoes, and waves of 3-5 feet. Periods of tropical storm force wind gusts in passing squalls, are possible along the western Panhandle coast this evening through early Thursday.
- Increasing winds along with increasing swells from approaching Tropical Depression Five will result in high waves and rip currents, making beach conditions very dangerous along the Florida Panhandle coast through at least Thursday. Residents and visitors are urged to avoid entering the water as rip currents are life-threatening even in knee-high water.
- Heavy rainfall will likely be the main threat with this system. Rainfall amounts may reach as high as 3-5 inches, especially along the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend coast. Residents and visitors are urged to not drive through flooded roadways and remember the phrase "Turn Around, Don't Drown".
- The State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee is at a Level 2, or partial activation in response to the Deepwater Horizon incident.

BE SMART, BE SAFE, BE A SURVIVOR! Go to www.FloridaDisaster.org today to create a personal or family disaster plan. All students, teachers and parents can find educational information and free downloadable materials at: www.KidsGetAPlan.com.