MEDIA RELEASE

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PANHANDLE, NORTH FLORIDA RESIDENTS URGED TO USE CAUTION AS FLASH FLOOD WATCHES ARE ISSUED FOR THE REGION THIS WEEK

TALLAHASSEE – Florida emergency management officials are urging residents and visitors in the Panhandle and North Florida regions to remain vigilant near local rivers and use caution on area roadways as a series of storm systems impacts the northern third of the state this week.

Each of these systems will also bring the threat for severe weather, with damaging wind gusts and isolated tornadoes possible beginning this evening in the Florida Panhandle. Periods of heavy rains are expected with projected rainfall totals in excess of 4 inches, with local totals up to 8 inches possible through Thursday.

Most river systems from the Ochlockonee River westward to Alabama remain near or above flood stage from heavy rains during the past weekend. Residents need to have disaster plans in place and should be ready to heed any local evacuation orders.

The State EOC in Tallahassee remains at Level 3 - monitoring status. Operations, Plans and Meteorology staff continue to follow the severe weather and flood threat through the State Watch Office (SWO), the 24/7 link to all 67 Florida counties.

For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management and to GET A PLAN!, please visit: www.FloridaDisaster.org.

All students, teachers and parents can find educational information and free downloadable materials at: www.KidsGetAPlan.com.

And for the latest daily situation and flash reports go to: www.YouTube.com/FloridaSERT.

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