TALLAHASSEE – All residents and travelers in north Florida should be on alert for rapidly changing conditions due to high water levels as a result of recent rains in the region. U.S. 90 at the Suwannee River (Madison and Suwannee County line) could be closed to all traffic as early as Thursday. If the water levels continue to rise, Interstate 10 (I-10) at the Suwannee River could also be closed as early as Friday.

“We are asking all residents and travelers in north and north-central Florida to pay close attention to possible road closures due to recent rainfall,” said Governor Charlie Crist. “We are ramping up state operations to respond to the affected counties and support local governments. We are also urging residents living near the river to pay close attention to media reports, review their disaster plans and be prepared for possible evacuation orders.”

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is closely monitoring the rising water levels along state roads and under bridges. Many local roads are already closed and traffic has been re-routed.

“Safety is our number one priority at the Florida Department of Transportation,” said FDOT Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos. “We have crews continuously checking the safety of the roads and bridges impacted by the flood conditions.”

Motorists are asked to delay or avoid travel through the impacted area until the conditions improve. To assist travelers, FDOT and the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), are working together with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Georgia State Patrol (GSP) to monitor road conditions.

**What to Expect and How to Prepare:**

- Highway speeds will be slower, please allow for extra travel time to reach your destination.
- Local roads near the Suwannee River may be subject to frequent closures.
- Make sure to fuel your vehicle prior to entering the region.

-more-
• Pack water and snacks for your family.
• Obey all special traffic signs and law enforcement orders. Don’t depend on GPS devices as they are not updated with current road closures.
• Remember, “Turnaround, Don’t Drown” if faced with a flooded road.

Expect to see FDOT, FHP, GDOT and GSP personnel along area routes. All motorists are advised to monitor their local media outlets for the latest information on weather conditions and possible road closures.

For real-time information on traffic conditions call 511 or visit www.FL511.com before getting on the road.

For additional information 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.

###