NEW INFORMATION

The State EOC in Tallahassee will be activating to a Level 2, partial activation as of 2 p.m. today in support of the counties that will receive impacts from Tropical Storm Claudette.

State officials have been in contact with our federal partners and counties that will have potential impacts and will continue to coordinate with them through the duration of this event.

State Emergency Response Team Regional Coordinators are present in the areas that will receive impacts and are coordinating with local officials and monitoring conditions.

At 12:15 p.m. today, Tropical Depression 4 (TD-4) was upgraded to Tropical Storm Claudette due to the surface winds increasing to 40 mph. The center of Tropical Storm Claudette was located approximately 75 miles south-southeast of Apalachicola, Florida. The storm is moving northwest at around 14 mph.

The next advisory from the National Hurricane Center will be issued at 2 p.m.

CURRENT SITUATION / STATE ACTIONS

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect from the Suwannee River west to the Florida / Alabama line. Local Flood Watches are in place across the Big Bend and Panhandle regions today.

Inland Tropical Storm Wind Warnings are in effect for Liberty, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun, and Holmes Counties. This means tropical storm-force winds are expected within 24 hours.

Tropical Storm Claudette is a small tropical cyclone. Coastal storm surge flooding of 3-5 feet is possible in a limited area near and just east of the point of landfall in the Panhandle later today.

The main threat from Tropical Storm Claudette is heavy downpours and isolated tornadoes today and tonight in the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend counties. Rainfall amounts of 3 to 5 inches, with isolated maximum amounts up to 10 inches are possible near the center.

Tropical Storm Claudette is expected to reach the Panhandle coast as a 60 mph tropical storm during the evening hours tonight.
The State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee continues to monitor Tropical Storm Claudette through the State Watch Office. The State is coordinating with counties in the potential path of this system.

**RECOMMENDED PUBLIC ACTIONS**

Panhandle and Big Bend residents and visitors need to closely follow Tropical Storm Claudette and be prepared to implement their disaster plans.

Please remember to plan for your pets.

Mariners need to make preparations to secure their vessels and remain in safe harbor.

Residents should review their family disaster plans and ensure their disaster survival kits are fully stocked.

Residents and visitors should heed the advice of local officials in regards to evacuations and protective actions if conditions warrant.

Remember, “Turnaround, Don’t Drown” if faced with a flooded roadway. It only takes a foot or two of moving water to sweep most cars off the road. Stay safe and observe all detours and closures.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

“Residents across the Big Bend and Panhandle areas of Florida are urged follow the progress of Tropical Storm Claudette and be prepared to implement their family disaster plans and heed local advisories,” said Ruben D. Almaguer, Interim 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.”

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