

Florida Division of Emergency Management  
State Watch Office

DAILY SITUATION REPORT

Published Tuesday, 16 December 2008

State EOC Activation Status – Level 3 (Monitoring)

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Executive Summary

- Widespread fog expected tonight statewide, with Dense Fog Advisories likely to be issued tonight or early Wednesday morning.
- Flood Warnings remain in effect for some Florida Panhandle and Big Bend rivers.
- **Unpaid Bills Burden Lee County Utilities.** FPL, LCEC report rise in uncollected fees since last year. A record number of Southwest Floridians are still not paying their electric bills on time, leaving companies with an unprecedented amount of bad debt.
- **Child likely died from MRSA, chickenpox.** The death of a 12-year-old boy was likely caused by MRSA, an antibiotic-resistant disease that is highly contagious, Volusia County officials said Monday.
- **Dioxin-contaminated fresh pork products recalled.** Two food establishments, one from New York and one from Florida, are recalling fresh pork products that may be contaminated with dioxins, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service.
- **SeaWorld sizes up terror risk over chemicals stored at park.** SeaWorld Orlando could become a target for terrorists trying to obtain chemicals, according to a preliminary review of businesses, universities and other facilities across the country by the federal government.
- **Your antivirus can be a backdoor for hackers.** According to iViZ, an information security company, antivirus software when processing malformed packed executables can result in bugs that can cause security vulnerability and help back door entry for hackers.

Daily Weather Threat Assessment

NO THREAT	LOW THREAT	MODERATE THREAT	HIGH THREAT
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Lightning	Flooding	Damaging Wind	Tornado	Hail	Wildfires	Freeze	Rip Currents
							East Central FL

## **Statewide Weather**

A large high pressure ridge over the western Atlantic, expanding across Florida, will remain in place today keeping fairly benign weather conditions across the state today. An east to southeast flow will continue to bring a warm and moist airmass across the state, with a few showers possible statewide this afternoon. A stalled frontal boundary over the Lower Mississippi Valley could also produce scattered showers across western portions of the Florida Panhandle.

Widespread fog will lift through the morning hours, with Dense Fog Advisories in effect until around 9am. Mild temperatures are forecast to continue tonight with widespread fog developing again across much of the state. Dense Fog Advisories may be issued tonight or early Wednesday morning.

Persistent east winds around 5mph combined with ocean swells will produce a moderate risk of rip currents at East Central Florida beaches today.

Heavy rainfall from last week continues to affect local rivers across portions of Northwest Florida. A Flood Warning remains in effect for the Choctawhatchee River at Caryville, Chipola River near Marianna and Altha, the Ochlockonee River at Havana and Concord and the Apalachicola River near Blountstown. Panhandle rivers have crested and are expected to gradually fall through the weekend, with the Ochlockonee River expected to crest this weekend.

## **Drought**

The average Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) value for the State of Florida is 434 on a scale of 0-800 (0=good, 800=bad). All counties west of Tallahassee have KBDI values less than 300, while many Florida Peninsula counties (29) remain high above the 500 mark. It appears that KBDI values will gradually increase statewide this week as rainfall chances will remain very small statewide through Friday.

## **Upcoming Significant Events**

- Magic Jack St. Petersburg Bowl game, Memphis vs. South Florida at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, FL on 20 December.
- Champs Sports Bowl game, Wisconsin vs. Florida State at Florida Citrus Bowl in Orlando, FL on 27 December.

## **Open Source News/Unclassified Intelligence**

*December 15 – news-press.com – (Florida) Unpaid Bills Burden Lee County Utilities.* FPL, LCEC report rise in uncollected fees since last year. A record number of Southwest Floridians are still not paying their electric bills on time, leaving companies with an unprecedented amount of bad debt. Lee County Electric Cooperative and Florida Power & Light are offering payment options to help people keep their lights on. "We are very concerned when economic difficulties affect our customers," said FPL spokeswoman Sarah Marmion. "Regarding disconnection of electric service, this is clearly a last resort for FPL." A report by The News-Press in June detailed how Southwest Florida utilities are taking an economic hit as a result of the region's record foreclosures and high unemployment. Six months later, conditions aren't any better. LCEC had \$684,000 in write-offs of bad bills in 2005. In 2008, it is expected to triple to \$2.1 million. LCEC provides service in Cape Coral, Lehigh Acres, Sanibel and Captiva, North Fort Myers, Pine Island, Ave Maria, Everglades City and Marco Island. FPL is reporting accounts greater than 60 days past due have increased about 17 percent this year compared with the same period last year. FPL reported \$9.9 million in uncollectible bills statewide in 2002. That amount almost doubled to \$18.1 million in 2007. Southwest Florida continues to be among the areas hit hardest by a nationwide economic downturn. The Cape Coral-Fort Myers area was the nation's No. 1

market for foreclosures in November, according to figures released last week by RealtyTrac. The report showed one in 59 housing units in Fort Myers-Cape Coral received a foreclosure notice  
Source:

<http://www.news-press.com/article/20081215/NEWS01/812150347/1002>

*December 16 – News Journal Online – (Florida)* **Child likely died from MRSA, chickenpox.** The death of a 12-year-old boy was likely caused by MRSA, an antibiotic-resistant disease that is highly contagious, Volusia County officials said Monday. Cody Shroul was found by his 8-year-old sister Friday morning. During the weekend, county officials said they believed the child had died as a result of the chickenpox. But Monday morning, county spokesman Dave Byron said the Medical Examiner's Office ran more tests and discovered the presence of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in the boy, as well as chickenpox. "It's more likely that (the cause of death) will be MRSA," Byron said. Deaths from chickenpox are rare. According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, there were eight chickenpox-related deaths reported in 2003 and the first half of 2004. Volusia County Health Department officials have been faced with a chickenpox outbreak since last September, however, when the first case was diagnosed at Spruce Creek High School. Since then, there have been 39 other cases at the school, said Dr. Sanford Zelnick, Health Department medical director. Zelnick said that based on this one case of what could be a MRSA-related death though, he has no recommendations to offer the community regarding the disease. Although Zelnick could not discuss Shroul's case specifically, he also said he offered no recommendations about MRSA to the boy's family. A spokeswoman for the Health Department in Tallahassee said the agency does not track MRSA deaths in the state.

Source:

<http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/News/Headlines/frtHEAD01EAST121608.htm>

*December 11, North Country Gazette – (National)* **Dioxin-contaminated fresh pork products recalled.** Two food establishments, one from New York and one from Florida, are recalling fresh pork products that may be contaminated with dioxins, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service. Rupari Food Services, a Deerfield Beach, Florida, establishment, is recalling approximately 41,020 pounds of fresh pork while Tommy Moloney's Inc., a Long Island City establishment, is recalling approximately 4,041 pounds of fresh pork products. Additionally, Dawn International, an Acton, Massachusetts, establishment, is recalling approximately 33,880 pounds of fresh pork products that may be contaminated with dioxins. FSIS was notified by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) that routine surveillance tests indicated the presence of dioxin in pork products that were sent to multiple importers of record in the United States. FSIS believes the probability of adverse health effects related to consumption of these pork products to be low, and concurs with the conclusions of a risk assessment conducted by FSAI.

Source:

[http://www.northcountrygazette.org/2008/12/11/pork\\_products/](http://www.northcountrygazette.org/2008/12/11/pork_products/)

See also:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Recall\\_050\\_2008\\_Release/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_050_2008_Release/index.asp)

*December 11, Orlando Sentinel – (National)* **SeaWorld sizes up terror risk over chemicals stored at park.** SeaWorld Orlando could become a target for terrorists trying to obtain chemicals, according to a preliminary review of businesses, universities and other facilities across the country by the federal government. The finding by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is tentative. The 200-acre theme park is one of about 7,000 locations nationwide that Homeland Security identified this year as sites with potentially dangerous chemicals that could be vulnerable to attack or theft by terrorists. The continuing review is part of Homeland Security's year-old Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards, which are aimed at tightening oversight at locations where large amounts of one or more of more than 300 dangerous chemicals are stored. Everything from large chemical plants to poultry farms and universities have been at least tentatively screened. When the rules were first issued late last year, they touched off alarms at all

of Orlando's major theme parks — including Walt Disney World and Universal Orlando — which feared they could be unnecessarily labeled “high-risk” sites for chemical terrorism. SeaWorld, Disney and Universal were among more than 40,000 locations throughout the country that had to submit inventories of their on-site chemicals — dubbed “top screens” — to Homeland Security by January of this year. The parks do not have large stockpiles of dangerous chemicals in any one location, but they do have many scattered throughout their sprawling resorts for use in everything from disinfectants to fireworks.

Source:

[http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/orl-chemical1108dec11\\_0,2967482.story](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/orl-chemical1108dec11_0,2967482.story)

*December 11, CXOtoday.com – (International) **Your antivirus can be a backdoor for hackers.***

According to iViZ, an information security company, antivirus software when processing malformed packed executables can result in bugs that can cause security vulnerability and help back door entry for hackers. The president of iViZ said, “An attacker first crafts an email with malicious payload and sends it to the target user and when the email is scanned by the vulnerable antivirus software it can either crash the antivirus software or execute arbitrary code resulting in complete security bypass and remote system compromise.” iViZ said that it has discovered new classes of vulnerabilities in many popular commercial and open source antivirus software that potentially allow attackers to break into systems using the same antivirus software. The company said that it used various file fuzzing techniques and reported abnormal behavior in several security tools when handling complex or unusual executable header data especially in the case of executables packed with 3rd party packers like UPX, FSG etc. In such events, multiple bugs were found in antivirus software while processing malformed packed executables. Some of these bugs proved to be security vulnerabilities which could make the antivirus itself as a back door for hackers.

Source:

[http://www.cxotoday.com/India/News/Your\\_Antivirus\\_can\\_be\\_a\\_Backdoor\\_for\\_Hackers/551-96361-909.html](http://www.cxotoday.com/India/News/Your_Antivirus_can_be_a_Backdoor_for_Hackers/551-96361-909.html)

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