FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 6, 2006

Contact: Mike Stone
(850) 413-9969

ARCTIC COLD TO PLUNGE INTO NORTH FLORIDA ON THURSDAY NIGHT
~Record Low Temperatures Expected in North Florida on Friday Night~

TALLAHASSEE - State emergency management officials are urging residents across north Florida to prepare for record cold temperatures and low wind chills beginning Thursday night. A blast of cold air originating in Canada will spill into north Florida on Thursday evening. Temperatures are forecast to fall into the 20s across most of north Florida Thursday night, with wind chills falling into the teens in the Panhandle. Freeze watches have been issued for most of north Florida for Thursday night. As winds subside on Friday evening, record cold temperatures are expected in north Florida, with temperatures falling below freezing (32 degrees and below) into north central sections of the state, including the Nature Coast.

“This event will produce wind chill readings down into the teens in the Panhandle on Thursday night and a widespread hard freeze for north Florida as well as a freeze for north-central Florida for Friday night,” said State Meteorologist Ben Nelson. “With wind chills near freezing for interior central Florida locales on Friday evening, residents and visitors to north and north-central Florida need to take appropriate precautions before colder temperatures arrive.”

Floridians should remember the "Five P's" of cold weather safety as this artic blast arrives. The “5 P’s” are: Protecting People, Protecting Plants, Protecting Pets, Protect Exposed Pipes, and Practice Fire Safety.

The following actions are important safety measures:

- Stay indoors and use safe heating sources.
- Be aware of the fire danger from space heaters and candles, keep such devices away from all flammable materials such as curtains and furniture, and install recommended smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Indoors: Do not use charcoal or other fuel-burning devices, such as grills that produce carbon monoxide. Install at least one carbon monoxide detector per floor in your home.
- Outdoors: Stay dry and in wind protected areas.
- Wear multiple layers of loose-fitting, warm clothing.
- Drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids.
For more information concerning cold weather preparedness, please visit the Florida Division of Emergency Management website at: www.FloridaDisaster.org

###