

**State of Florida
State Emergency Response Team**

**DAILY UPDATE
Wednesday, April 1, 2009**

- **URGENT INFORMATION: April Severe Storms and Flooding**
 - **FLASH FLOOD WATCHES AND FLOOD WARNINGS ARE IN EFFECT FOR MOST PANHANDLE AND NORTH FLORIDA COUNTIES TODAY. HEAVY DOWNPOURS WILL CREATE HAZARDOUS DRIVING CONDITIONS IN THESE AREAS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.**
 - **ADDITIONAL RAINFALL AMOUNTS OF 3 TO 5 INCHES WITH LOCALLY HEAVIER TOTALS ARE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE WEEKEND ACROSS NORTHERN FLORIDA.**
 - **MOST RIVERS FROM TALLAHASSEE WEST TO THE ALABAMA LINE ARE IN FLOOD STAGE. RESIDENTS SHOULD AVOID THOSE AREAS.**
 - The State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee activated today to a Level 2 activation which is a partial activation of the state team to support county operations in the Panhandle.
 - Record rainfall and flooding will be the main concern as a series of systems sweep across the northern parts of the state through Thursday night.

- **MESSAGE OF THE DAY – FLORIDIANS: TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!**
 - Stay safe by avoiding flooded areas and roadways. Remember to “Turn around, Don't Drown” if faced with a flooded roadway. Follow all evacuation orders and wait until local officials give the “all-clear” before returning back home.
 - Be Smart. Watch for fallen power lines and tree limbs around standing water.

- Residents in North Florida should follow the movement of the severe weather and monitor their local media outlets for the most current information and guidance from officials in their area. NOAA Weather Alert radio can be a lifesaver especially during the overnight periods.
- Standing flood waters pose possible health dangers. Basic hygiene is critical. Avoid contact with flood waters if at all possible.
- Keep children away from flood water. Downed electrical lines and dangerous wildlife can be hidden underneath standing water.
- Respect the power of water. Flooding conditions persist across many areas of the state today. Please observe local detours and road closures. It only takes a few feet of moving water to knock most cars off the road.
- Carbon monoxide is deadly. Residents should use caution when operating portable generators. Generators should be used outdoors only.
- Plan to be a survivor by taking common sense measures now to protect your family and property as severe weather treks across Florida this week.
- We commend our residents and visitors for their patience and vigilance during this weather event. We praise our local responders and emergency officials for their commitment to public service as together we respond to the ongoing flooding.

Go to www.FloridaDisaster.org today and create a personal or family disaster plan.