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#120623-INVEST96

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Residents Urged to Monitor Tropical System

Santa Rosa County Emergency Management is currently monitoring and preparing for any possible effects from Invest 96 currently in the Gulf of Mexico. While the emergency operation center is not activated at this time, staff are watching the system closely and participating in conference calls with the National Weather Service and State Emergency Operations Center. Residents are urged to monitor local media for the most up-to-date forecast as the track is currently very uncertain and conditions may change rapidly.

Storm Information as Currently Forecasted by the National Weather Service

- Invest 96 has a 90 percent chance of becoming a tropical depression or tropical storm in the next 48 hours. The track of the storm remains uncertain.
- There is a high risk of strong/dangerous rip currents at the beaches and the risk will likely continue through early next week.
- Given the recent heavy rains in the area, the thresholds for flooding are lower than normal.
- Small craft advisories are in effect for the Gulf coastal waters. Seas building to near 10 feet offshore and winds increasing to 25 to 30 knots through Monday.

Steps Residents Can Take Now

- Beachgoers, swimmers and surfers should heed red flag warnings and stay out of the water as deadly rip currents and rough surf conditions are expected.
- Review your family disaster plan. Don't forget special plans for elderly, handicapped, children and pets.
- Know your evacuation zone. Remember, evacuation zones are now A-E. Use the interactive evacuation zone tool found at www.santarosa.fl.gov/gis by typing in your address to see what zone you live in.
- Make plans to secure your property. Check for, fix or remove loose items on your structures/homes. Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed. Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and down spouts.
- Make sure your hurricane kit contains non-perishable food, water, medications for three to five days for each family member and pet.
- Know what low-lying areas near your home are subject to flooding such as creeks, drainage channels, streams and bayous.
- Santa Rosa County Division of Emergency Management's latest all-hazards disaster guide is now available online at www.santarosa.fl.gov/news/factsheet/2012%20Disaster%20Guide.pdf or at county offices and libraries, local chambers of commerce, and local retailers.

General Safety Information

- www.santarosa.fl.gov or follow us on Twitter at @SRCBOCC
- Please monitor your home weather radio and local media outlets for the most up-to-date information.
- Your best defense in any disaster is a NOAA Weather radio.
- Citizens can sign up to automatically receive breaking news alerts from Santa Rosa County Emergency Management via e-mail or as a text message on their cell phone at:
www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency/publicwarning.html

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