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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County Emergency Management: Tropical system in the Atlantic warrants personal preparation

July 29, 2024 – Flagler County is currently in the seven-day cone of error for a tropical system in the Atlantic. While it is too early to predict what effects – if any – that will bring to the county, it's never too early to prepare.

"If the system does threaten Flagler County later this week, it is a good idea for you to know how you will protect your home and your family," said Emergency Management Director Jonathan Lord. "It's also a good idea to understand if you are in a potential evacuation zone."

Build a Kit

- Gather supplies now before store shelves are emptied that will last for a week after a disaster for everyone in the home.
- Don't forget to consider the unique needs that each person or pet may have.
- The kit* should include nonperishable food, water, medications, clothing, cash (as credit card/ATM machines may not work), radios, and batteries.
- Portability is key should evacuation be required.

Make a Plan

- Talk to friends and family about how communicating before, during, and after a disaster will work.
- Have a primary, secondary, and possibly even a tertiary plan for where to go in the event of an evacuation.
- Consider staying with family or friends outside of the evacuation area in addition to hotels or motels. (NOTE: Flagler County always opens public shelters at the time evacuations are ordered.)

"We recommend staying aware of the weather and the tropics throughout the Hurricane Season as things can rapidly change," Lord said. "Preparation is the key, and we're here to help."

Individual, household, and business preparedness – for all disasters, not just tropical storms and hurricanes – is urged. For more guidance on how to prepare for and deal with disasters, download the countywide

Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Guide at www.FlaglerCounty.gov/emergency, or pick-up a copy at any local library, the Flagler Beach Historical Museum, city halls, and the County Administration Building. The latest version of this guide includes the new Potential Hurricane Evacuation Zones map, which can also be viewed by clicking on "Hurricane Evacuation Zones" at www.FlaglerCounty.gov/emergency.

Sign up for the ALERTFlagler notification system at www.FlaglerCounty.gov/AlertFlagler. Get involved – register for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and other volunteering and training opportunities by going to www.FlaglerCounty.gov/emergency and selecting "Volunteering & Training."

Find additional preparedness information at www.FlaglerCounty.gov/emergency and by following Flagler County Emergency Management:

• Instagram: www.Instagram.com/FlaglerEOC

• X (Twitter): <u>www.Twitter.com/FlaglerEOC</u>

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