



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Gov. Scott: As Tropical Storm Hermine Approaches Florida, Residents Must Be Prepared

New Executive Order Issued to Include 51 Florida Counties

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) upgraded Tropical Depression 9 to Tropical Storm Hermine. Governor Rick Scott today signed an additional executive order that expands the state of emergency to include nine new counties. This is in addition to the 42 counties announced earlier today. The new counties include: **Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Manatee, Osceola and Sarasota.** The Florida Division of Emergency Management continues to actively monitor Tropical Storm Hermine and urges everyone in Florida to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautions as it moves toward the Gulf Coast. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) remains activated to Level 2. To view Executive Order 16-206, click [HERE](#).

Governor Scott said, "We are in constant communication with local communities and we stand ready to respond to any impacts, especially as we anticipate that the storm could become a hurricane before it reaches landfall tomorrow. As we brace for this storm to impact Florida, I will be at the SEOC in Tallahassee tomorrow to continue to closely monitor it.

"At this time, we expect storm surge of upwards of six feet in some parts of our state. We also anticipate total rainfall amounts of five to 10 inches of over portions of Northwest Florida and isolated tornadoes. I have spent the day traveling the state reminding Floridians of the importance of being prepared for bad weather. Now that Tropical Storm Hermine is approaching our state, it is even more important for all Floridians to get a plan and prepare for severe weather. If you don't have a plan, please visit FLGetAPlan.com. We will provide regular updates on this storm and the state's preparedness efforts."

Tomorrow, Governor Scott will monitor Tropical Storm Hermine from the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee. Governor Scott will participate in a weather briefing call with the National Hurricane Center at 11:15 a.m. Immediately following this call, Governor Scott will provide an update to press at the SEOC.

The NHC has designated the system as Tropical Storm Hermine. Tropical Storm Hermine has sustained winds of 45 mph and is projected to make landfall in Florida late Thursday night. Additional strengthening of this storm is expected to occur in the next 36 hours. A hurricane watch is in effect for coastal and inland areas between Pasco County and Gulf County. A tropical storm warning is in effect for coastal and inland areas between Pasco County and Bay County. On Florida's East coast, a tropical storm watch is in effect for St. Johns, Duval and Nassau Counties. A storm surge warning is in effect for coastal areas between Hernando and Franklin Counties.

FDEM Director Bryan Koon said, "Take this storm seriously. With Tropical Storm Hermine expected to impact Florida tomorrow afternoon, it is critically important for residents along the Gulf Coast and Big Bend to prepare and have a plan. We urge residents and visitors to remain safe by avoiding driving through flooded areas, monitoring local news stations for storm updates and evacuation notices and seek shelter during severe weather. We stand ready to respond to any impacts this storm has on Florida communities and continue to encourage residents to visit FLGetAPlan.com to create an emergency plan."

The Florida Division of Emergency Management is the state agency charged with preparing for all types of disasters in Florida. The Division is the state's disaster liaison with federal and local agencies, and is the lead consequence management agency for the State Emergency Response Team (SERT). The Division maintains the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Tallahassee and the State Watch Office, the 24-hour communications and command center for response coordination. Follow the Division on social media at facebook.com/FloridaSERT or on Twitter @FLSERT.

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