



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 26, 2016

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## **GOV SCOTT: AS WEEKEND APPROACHES, CONTINUE TO MONITOR WEATHER**

**MIAMI, Fla. –** Today, Governor Rick Scott spoke with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and the Florida Department of State (DOS) to get an update on potential storm impacts. FDEM is continuing to actively monitor a developing storm system as it approaches the Florida Straits, and are urging everyone in Florida to remain vigilant as it moves toward the Gulf of Mexico. FDEM has not elevated the activation level of the State Emergency Operations Center, or activated the State Emergency Response Team but stands ready. Though developing more slowly than first anticipated, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) expects conditions will become more favorable for intensification as the storm moves into the Gulf of Mexico.

Governor Scott said, "As the weekend approaches it is very important that Florida families and businesses prepare for potential storm impacts. The storm is disorganized and it's still very unclear on where impacts to our state might be. We will continue to closely monitor the storm over the weekend and since we anticipate heavy rain, remember to dump standing water as we continue to fight Zika. It is crucial to make a plan and have three days of food and water as well as flashlights, batteries and medicine available. Weather in our state can change very quickly and Floridians must stay alert and always have a plan. Also, with the primary election on Tuesday, it is crucial that everyone goes out to vote early, regardless of weather."

The NHC has designated the developing system as Invest 99L, and estimates it to have a 30-percent chance of cyclone formation in the next 48 hours and a 60-percent chance of cyclone formation within the next five days. The NHC does not anticipate any direct impacts to Florida earlier than Saturday night or during the early hours Sunday.

FDEM Director Bryan Koon, said, "As this system moves into the Gulf of Mexico it will have a greater potential to organize, so it still poses a significant risk, and we are urging everyone to remain vigilant and to prepare for this possible scenario."

Regardless of development, portions of South Florida and the Florida Gulf Coast may be at risk for heavy rainfall, potential flooding and rip currents late this weekend through next week.

The next name on the 2016 Atlantic Storm name list is Hermine (pronounced Er-meen).

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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 Warning Point, the 24-hour communications and command center for response coordination. Follow the Division on social media at [facebook.com/FloridaSERT](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaSERT) or on Twitter @FLSERT.

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