

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2024

CONTACT:
LESLIE D. STEELE
media@gadsdencountyfl.gov
850.743.8757

GADSDEN COUNTY ANNOUNCES SANDBAG LOCATIONS IN PREPARATION FOR SEVERE WEATHER EVENT

GADSDEN COUNTY, Fla- Gadsden County Emergency Management is closely monitoring the changing weather conditions due to severe weather events in the Gadsden County area. Tropical storm watches or warnings may be issued today as Invest 97L continues moving toward the Gulf of Mexico, according to the latest advisory from the National Hurricane Center. Yesterday, the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners declared a state of emergency ahead of the storm.

The National Hurricane Center gives a medium chance of 60 percent for development over the next 48 hours. Chances for development over the next seven days also have increased to 90 percent. Regardless of development, heavy rains could cause flash flooding across Gadsden County over the weekend.

The Gadsden County Department of Emergency Management and the Gadsden County Department of Public Works have made sandbag operations available for residents from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Sandbags will be available today to the public at the following locations:

Post Plant Pit off Post Plant Road
Clark Pit off Edwin Clark Road

Sandbags are limited to 15 bags per household. Citizens need to bring shovels to fill bags themselves. Locations will not be staffed, but crews will monitor and provide additional sand and bags as needed. The site will be open until the storm threat has passed and it is determined there is no longer a need.

Property owners who have experienced flooding problems can use sandbags to help protect stormwater from entering their property.

Gadsden County Emergency Management advises that residents monitor the latest forecasts and be prepared to take the necessary precautions to protect life and property. Drivers should use caution and adhere to any official signage.

The National Weather Service also warns that residents should not drive cars through flooded areas and that they should turn around and find another route if they see floodwaters. Residents are also encouraged not to attempt to walk through floodwaters. The most current road condition

and updates on road closures can be found on the Gadsden County website at www.gadsdencountyfl.gov.

All flood water should be considered to be contaminated. Do not allow children to play in, wade through, or swim in floodwater.

Residents requiring more information or assistance should call Gadsden County Emergency Management at (850) 875-8833 or (850) 627-0899. Additionally, residents can sign up for emergency text alerts at Text AlertGadsden to 888777 for accurate and up-to-date weather and emergency alerts.

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