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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Officials urge using 5 Ps of cold-weather preparation, shelter opens

January 3, 2018 – Flagler County’s Office of Emergency Management is monitoring the current cold weather conditions, and officials urge residents to practice the five Ps of cold weather preparation.

“We are asking our residents and visitors to protect their life and property during this cold weather event,” said Acting Emergency Management Chief Sally Sherman. “Children and the elderly are the most sensitive to the effects of the cold temperatures and strong winds.”

- **PROTECT PEOPLE:** Remember to dress in layers and wear a hat and gloves. It is important to try to stay out of the wind and to stay dry.
- **PROTECT PETS:** Be sure to bring outdoor pets inside, or give them a warm shelter to stay for the duration of the cold weather.
- **PROTECT PLANTS:** Cover cold sensitive plants to protect them from the dangerous temperatures.
- **PROTECT PIPES:** Cover pipes and allow outdoor faucets to slowly drip to prevent from freezing and breaking.
- **PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY:** Use safe heating sources indoors. Do not use fuel-burning devices such as grills; they release carbon monoxide, which is a deadly gas. Also, make sure to use space heaters according to their instructions and be attentive to open flames.

The Sheltering Tree – 205 N. Pine Street, Bunnell, 386-437-3258 ext. 105 – will be open to accommodate those without appropriate housing.

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Nate McLaughlin
District 4

Donald O’Brien, Jr.
District 5

“We will serve a hot meal at 6 p.m.,” said the Sheltering Tree’s Vicky Letellier. “We provide a cot, hot breakfast in the morning, and a change of clothes for those who want it. We do not have a shower.”

For safety reasons, once guests check in for the night at the Sheltering Tree they are not permitted to leave until the morning.

“We do everything we can to get people out of this horrible weather, but they cannot come and go,” Letellier said. “Anyone with questions should call. We are very busy today, so leave a message if we don’t answer and we’ll return the call.”

Flagler County has suffered some beach erosion, nuisance flooding, and over wash on the beachside.

Over wash was reported Wednesday morning at MalaCompra Road and at Flagler Road in Marineland Acres where there has been a dunes breach. Flagler County Road and Bridge is working to secure the breach.

Beach erosion was reported in the area of Varn Park.

Nuisance flooding – minor, recurrent flood at high tide – has been reported at Clubhouse and Ocean Palm roads.

“Please be safe and if you have neighbors who may need assistance, please check in with them,” Sherman said.

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