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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Begin hurricane season preps by shopping local during sales tax holiday

March 23, 2018 – June is fast approaching, as is the official start of hurricane season. Flagler officials are urging residents to prepare early by shopping locally and taking advantage of the upcoming Sales Tax Holiday.

Governor Rick Scott signed legislation designating a 2018 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday from Friday, June 1 through Thursday, June 7 – a full week this year.

During this sales tax holiday, items related to disaster preparedness are exempt from sales tax.

“We ask residents to have a number of emergency supplies ready, and this is the perfect time to take a look at what you have and replenish or replace these items,” said Emergency Management Chief Jonathan Lord. “Remember to test things like flashlights and replace outdated batteries.”

As with food, water, and medications, officials recommend having five days’ worth of supplies.

The qualifying list of items includes the following: reusable ice packs; flashlights, lanterns and candles; fuel and kerosene containers; batteries (excluding automobile and boat); coolers and ice chests; tarps; ground anchor systems; tie-downs; bungee cords; two-way and weather band radios that are powered by battery, solar or hand-crank; and, portable generators selling for less than \$750 to be used for providing light, communications or to preserve food in the event of a power outage.

“Another thing we would ask residents is to take a moment to do now is to sign up for special alert notifications at www.flaglercounty.org/alertflagler,” Lord said. “If you know someone with special needs – someone who requires electricity, refrigeration for medication, or oxygen, encourage them or register for evacuation assistance at www.flaglercounty.org/special_needs.”

Also remember to shop locally.

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Nate McLaughlin
District 4

Donald O’Brien, Jr.
District 5

“Certainly we hope to be spared this year, but it is a good time to remind our residents to consider making their purchases within Flagler County,” said Flagler County Director of Economic Opportunity Helga van Eckert. “The healthier our businesses are before a storm, the quicker they will rebound which will make our individual recovery less painful.”

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