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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

FLASH FLOOD WATCH FOR PARTS OF STATE

State Emergency Operations Center opens to monitor storm and support communities.

CONCORD, N.H. – The National Weather Service in Gray, ME has issued a Flash Flood Watch for parts of Hillsborough, Merrimack, Coos, Cheshire, Sullivan, and Grafton counties through late tonight. Locally heavy rainfall is expected overnight with possibility of thunderstorms. A half to one and a half inches of rain may fall in the watch area with locally amounts over two inches possible. This rainfall would be sufficient to allow for localized flooding

In response to the anticipated heavy rain and potential flash flooding, the State Emergency Operations Center will open to a partial level to monitor storm conditions and coordinate the State's response in support of local communities.

Flash flooding is flooding that begins within 6 hours but often within 3 hours of heavy rain. Flash floods are the most dangerous kind of floods because they occur so quickly and their potential impact is largely unknown. A Flash Flood Watch means flash flooding is possible and everyone in the watch area should *be prepared*. A Flash Flood Warning means flash flooding is imminent or already occurring and everyone in the warning area should *take action and seek higher ground immediately*.

“People in the counties under a watch need to stay aware of the local weather forecast and know what to do if flooding does occur,” said state Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Jennifer Harper. “Heed instructions from local safety officials. If flooding occurs, move to higher ground immediately. Never drive through flooded roadways. Turn around, don't drown. If you need emergency assistance, call 9-1-1.”

Several communities already have experienced substantial rainfall resulting in flooding and significant damage including towns in Cheshire, Sullivan, Merrimack and Belknap counties. Tonight's storms could result in more damage. New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management continues to work with local emergency management officials to coordinate any resources needed for the response.

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