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**March 15, 2016**  
*PRESS RELEASE*

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FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

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**SPALDING COUNTY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
ANNOUNCES 2016 FLOOD SAFETY PREPAREDNESS WEEK  
MARCH 14-18, 2016**

The National Weather Service reports that “Based on a 30-year average (1985-2014), more people are killed from flooding/flash flooding than any other weather related hazard, and we continue to see the devastating impact that flooding/flash flooding has on people across the country.”

To assist Spalding County citizens in understanding the importance of being prepared for flooding emergencies, the National Weather Service has proclaimed the week of March 14-18 as Flood Safety Preparedness Week for the State of Georgia.

According to the National Weather Service, over half of flood related drownings are a direct result of vehicles being driven into hazardous flood water and the next highest percentage are from individuals who walk in or near flood waters. Six inches of fast-moving water can knock over an adult and just 12 inches of fast-moving water can carry a small car away. The National Weather Service promotes the “Turn Around Don’t Drown” campaign to assist in the education of citizens about the dangers of flood waters.

The National Weather Service also points out the differences between the Flood Watch and Flood Warning information:

- Flash Flood Warning: Take Action!
- Flood Warning: Take Action!
- Flood Watch: Be Prepared
- Flood Advisory: Be Aware

For more information on being prepared for flooding emergencies, visit the National Weather Service web page: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov> or contact the Spalding County Office of Homeland Security at 770-228-2129.

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