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**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, December 26, 2015

**Alabama Emergency Management Agency Encourages Residents and Motorists to Maintain Safety and Awareness of the Dangers of Flooding**

**Clanton-** Significant rainfall across the State of Alabama throughout the week has resulted in numerous road closures and delays caused by fast-moving floodwaters. The Alabama Emergency Management Agency continues to caution residents of potential dangers of rising waters.

On December 25, 2015 Governor Robert Bentley issued a State of Emergency for all Alabama counties for flooding as a result of the excessive rain that has fallen over the past couple of days and continues to fall.

**As of 8:00 a.m. Saturday, December 26, 2015:**

- Across the state there are currently 188 road closures due to flooding and washouts
- From 5:00 pm 12/25/15 to 7:00 am 12/26/15 23 Flood Warnings and 15 Flash Flood Warnings have been issued
- Rivers continue to rise causing additional flooding concerns

The AEMA encourages residents to stay off the roadways unless it is absolutely necessary to travel. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move to higher ground. Do not wait to be told to move. Monitor local media and trusted websites for updated conditions, advisories and instructions. Personal safety should be everyone's number one concern.

Avoid floodwater at all costs.

Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving.

Do not drive into flooded areas. Do not drive around barricades posted at or near flooded streets. One foot of water can cause your car to float off the roadway. **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN**

Everyone in Alabama is urged to continue to monitor the developing forecasts through news media and through trusted sources online. Pay attention to emergency warnings from local and state public safety officials and take safety actions if instructed to do so.

The AEMA will post updates and information as necessary on its Facebook page and on Twitter.