

Hazardous Weather Awareness Week 2008

- “Eight Days in '08” : February 2nd - 9th
- Tornado drill will take place at 10 AM EST / 9 AM CST on Wednesday, February 6th.
- The Weather Radio Report is this year's guide – 24 page color newspaper.
- The Weather Radio Report will be distributed to all 6th-8th grade students in public schools during the week of FEPA (January 28th – February 1st).

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- The Weather Radio Report will also be distributed directly to each county emergency management office, Red Cross chapter, and National Weather Service office.
- Email ben.nelson@em.myflorida.com for specific requests for the number of guides that your county will receive or for any suggestions, etc.
- While we will be on the road during Hazardous Weather Awareness Week, we are not doing a school-only tour due to FCAT interference.
- If you would like to host an event during Feb 5-8, we will support it. Please let us know ASAP.

floridadisaster.org/kids

HAZARDOUS WEATHER: a florida guide

◀ FLORIDADISASTER.ORG

TEACHER PLANNING

DOWNLOADS

GAMES

LINKS

En Español

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE!

By Craig Fugate, Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management

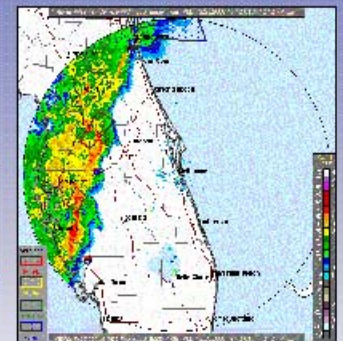
While many Floridians were busy celebrating this past holiday season, residents in Pasco and Volusia counties were left picking up the pieces after multiple tornadoes swept across the state on Christmas Day, impacting nearly 500 homes. Although the tornadoes also produced damages from the Big Bend to Central Florida, Floridians thankfully escaped the Christmas Day storms unharmed because they had the advantage of daylight, and successfully obeyed the warnings issued by local officials carried on NOAA weather alert radios. Many in this same area recalled how a similar set of tornadoes in 1998 proved to be deadly, as 42 lives were lost during that event.

Now is the time to talk to your family about the importance of having a family disaster plan and equipping your home with a NOAA weather alert radio. The past hurricane seasons have taught us how important it is to be prepared before severe weather arrives. While hurricanes usually give us the luxury of advance notice, other events such as tornadoes can occur with little to no warning. History has taught us that with the current El Nino pattern, from now through the spring months, cold fronts may produce deadly tornadoes, especially when they strike at night. Make sure that your home has a working NOAA Weather Radio which can be a lifesaving tool for alerting your family to dangerous weather approaching your community.

In addition to having a weather radio, it also is important to understand the differences in the weather alerts. For example, knowing the difference between a Tornado Watch and Warning can determine whether or not your family needs to take immediate action.

The 2007 Lightning Ledger is a fun, interactive guide that you can use at home or at school. This guide offers safety actions for Florida weather events and includes a variety of activities you can practice in class or at home with friends. Since you and your family are not always together, it is important that you know your family's disaster plan. This includes having a complete disaster-supply kit that is ready to use as needed.

Florida Division of Emergency Management 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100



Annual 4th-5th Grade Statewide Poster Contest

- Red Cross will administer the annual 4th-5th grade poster contest that will be judged on Thursday, January 31st.
- Poster contest entries must be postmarked by Monday, January 28th.
- Just Read, Florida! will work with FLASH on a contest focused on middle or high school students.
- Thanks to FEPA for past sponsorship of the Hazardous Weather Awareness Week contests.

2007 Poster Contest Judging

