



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Governor

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Miami-Dade Citizen Corps Public Safety Day Saturday

Residents urged to participate and get involved

Miami-Dade County, FL – Miami-Dade Citizens Corps and Wal-Mart stores are holding a Public Safety Day event on **Saturday, March 22, 2008 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Wal-Mart store, 15885 S.W. 88 St. in Miami**. The free event will promote public safety and awareness issues, best practices for family security during emergencies, and community preparedness.

Event activities will include child fingerprinting and identification cards by the Miami-Dade Police Department; Miami-Dade Commissioner Joe Martinez's mobile office constituent outreach bus; the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office mobile office bus; and other county and non-profit services. Florida Emergency Management will provide 10 NOAA Alert Radios to be awarded as prizes for attendees.

The Miami-Dade County Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM&HS) is the host agency for Miami-Dade Citizen Corps, which coordinates community programs aimed at preparing residents and visitors with the skills and training to properly deal with a major emergency. The Miami-Dade Citizen Corps Council is made up of four core programs: the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Citizen's Crime Watch of Miami-Dade, Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS), and Medical Reserve Corps.

"Miami-Dade's program continues to make a difference for South Florida residents each day," said David Halstead, State Emergency Response Team Chief. "We applaud their outreach efforts and urge folks to come out Saturday and get involved with Citizens Corps."

The Miami-Dade Citizen Corps and CERT program is funded through a federal grant administered by the state of Florida. There are 46 local Citizen Corps Councils and 168 Community Emergency Response Teams operating throughout the state. Florida has over 88,000 volunteers participating in formal Citizen Corps and CERT programs and over 1,700 public education and outreach activities coordinated throughout the state, proving Florida citizens have truly taken volunteerism to a new level.

Event Details:

WHAT: Public Safety Day, hosted by Miami-Dade Citizen Corps Council.

WHERE: Wal-Mart store, 15885 S.W. 88 St., Miami.

WHEN: Saturday, March 11, 2008 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Miami-Dade County Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security is committed to working with its partners and the community to lessen the impact of disasters and potential catastrophic incidents. Residents may access emergency information at www.miamidade.gov/oem. For more information on Citizen Corps programs in Florida and how to “Get a Plan!” for disaster preparedness, visit www.floridadisaster.org.

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