EMERGENCY MANAGERS OFFER HOLIDAY GIFT SUGGESTIONS
~ Practical gifts, disaster kits and safety tips for the season. ~

TALLAHASSEE— Officials at the Florida Division of Emergency Management, in the spirit of the holiday season, would like to offer some “last minute” gift suggestions and safety tips that are ideal for the “person who has everything” as well as every home.

“Every home can use a NOAA weather radio,” said Craig Fugate, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. “This is a very practical gift that can be invaluable to residents when hazardous weather approaches.”

In addition to weather radios, flashlights, batteries, first-aid kits, smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers are essential supply items that everyone can use. If your home kit is in order, perhaps it’s time to check on a second safety kit for your vehicle or boat. These items are widely available and reasonably priced to fit any budget.

December is an excellent time to recycle items from your personal disaster supply kits. Although most canned food items last for quite awhile, check the expiration date and consider donating items to your local food bank or charity. Bottled water should not be stored for prolonged periods but can be used to water plants, Christmas trees and dampen fires.

Director Fugate also offers a few holiday safety tips; “Please remember to turn off your tree lights, space-heating devices, and to fully extinguish candles and fireplaces when not at home. Too many times we’ve heard of tragic events where a family returns from shopping to find their home in ashes, we want all Floridians to have a safe holiday season.”

For more information on general disaster preparedness, please visit the Florida Division of Emergency Management Web site at: www.FloridaDisaster.org

****PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**** MEDIA AVAILABILITY***************

Who: Director Craig Fugate will be shopping for practical gifts and stocking stuffers.
When: Friday, December 19, 2003 at 10:30 a.m.
Where: Target Store, 2120 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, FL  ph: 671-2041
Why: Public awareness of safety items for the holiday season.
How: Meet at Store entrance. Contact: Mike Stone at 528-8975 (Cell)

State of Florida
Department of Community Affairs
“Dedicated to making Florida a better place to call home”

JEB BUSH
Governor

COLLEEN CASTILLE
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Media Release #03-96 and ***PHOTO OPPORTUNITY***
December 18, 2003 – 12:00 p.m.
Contact: Mike Stone, PIO
(850) 413-9969
(850) 528-8975 Cell