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2003 HAZARDOUS WEATHER AWARENESS “POSTER CONTEST” WINNERS ANNOUNCED

~ Over 200 4th and 5th graders statewide participated as part of Hazardous Weather Awareness Week ~

TALLAHASSEE—The Florida Division of Emergency Management, in partnership with Florida’s American Red Cross Chapters, The Florida Department of Education, Florida Emergency Preparedness Association and Florida’s National Weather Service Forecast Offices today announced the winners of the Hazardous Weather “Poster Contest” during ceremonies held in the Capitol.

Over 200 fourth and fifth graders from 11 counties participated in the contest. The thirteen top finalists’ artwork will be displayed in the Rotunda of the State Capitol. The top three winners will receive savings bonds in the amounts of $100 dollars for first place, $50 dollars for second place and $25 dollars for third place. All thirteen finalists will receive NOAA weather radios.

“This year we received quite an array of entries and the quality of the artwork was excellent,” said Chris Floyd, Emergency Services Coordinator for the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross in Tallahassee.

The first place winner is Jordyn Smith, a 4th grade student at Summers Elementary in Lake City. Second place was awarded to Haya Mitri, a 4th grade student at Resurrection Parrish School in Jacksonville. In third place is Josh Powell, a 5th grade student at Antioch Elementary in Crestview.

The poster contest is part of an annual public awareness campaign that included the distribution of 70,000 copies of the “Florida Hazardous Weather Guide” in schools statewide. The annual “Tornado Drill” will be conducted on Wednesday, February 19, 2003, by the Florida offices of the National Weather Service.

"With so many residents and visitors enjoying Florida’s climate, it is important that everyone is aware and prepared for potential weather hazards," said Craig Fugate, Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. “This week our goal is to help establish a culture of awareness that will continue to save lives.”

For more information regarding “Hazardous Weather Awareness Week” activities, visit www.floridadisaster.org

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