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GOVERNOR SCOTT'S "FIGHTING FOR FLORIDA'S FUTURE" BUDGET FIGHTS TO KEEP FLORIDA PREPARED FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Scott's "Fighting for Florida's Future" Budget invests \$437 million in the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) to ensure the safety of those who live, work and visit Florida while providing the state's rapidly expanding economy with the resources needed to continue small business growth and diversification.

Governor Scott said, "With a steadily increasing number of individuals who call the Sunshine State their home, public safety and preparedness are critical priorities. Last year, our state was impacted by two hurricanes and a tropical storm and we saw the incredible importance of being prepared before severe weather strikes. These investments ensure that Floridians will continue to have everything they need to keep their loved ones and businesses safe during any potential disaster."

FDEM Director Bryan Koon said, "Governor Scott's proposed budget will keep our state's citizens safe and prepared for any potential disasters. Preparedness has never been more important, especially in the wake of the two largest storms to impact our state in over a decade. The Governor's budget will provide the Division with the tools needed to make that preparedness a reality."

The "Fighting for Florida's Future" Budget includes:

- **\$355.6 Million for Disaster Preparedness Response, Recovery and Mitigation:** Since 2011, Governor Scott has overseen the investment of more than \$1 billion to ensure Florida is a leader in disaster preparedness and recovery. The "Fighting for Florida's Future" Budget invests \$355.6 million in financial assistance to state and local governments for emergency public awareness, outreach programs, and disaster mitigation programs.
- **\$3.5 Million for the Statewide Emergency Alert Notification System:** DEM is continuing to expand a statewide, vendor-hosted "mass notification" system to provide alerts of eminent or actual hazards to all Florida families, businesses and visitors. It will merge with existing systems, automatically disseminate weather warnings from the National Weather Service and target specific geographic areas for real-time, location-based mobile device alerts. Currently, the system has been implemented in 27 counties and 5 cities, towns or other political municipalities, with deployments underway in another 25 counties and 6 cities.
 - Florida National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy holders will save a combined \$47 million once all eligible communities are enrolled in CRS.

Currently, there are 219 communities enrolled in CRS, which totals 47 percent of all Florida communities. Florida leads the nation in CRS-enrolled communities, with approximately three times the number enrolled when compared to the next closest state.

- **\$9.1 Million for Flood Mitigation Assistance Programs:** The Flood Mitigation Assistance Programs are administered through FDEM to reduce or eliminate claims under the National Flood Insurance Program. FDEM develops and maintains a State Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan, and reviews Flood Mitigation Assistance Program applications from eligible state/local governments, recommends technically feasible and cost effective applications to FEMA and provides pass-thru funding for FEMA approved and awarded project grants to eligible sub-applicants.
- **\$6.7 Million for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM):** The PDM Program provides funds for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event to reduce overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations.
- **\$3 Million for Hurricane Shelter Retrofit:** FDEM publishes an annual shelter retrofit report which provides a list of facilities recommended to be retrofitted for use as public hurricane evacuation shelters. Such measures bring the safety of public shelters up to established safety criteria and increase the availability of public hurricane evacuation shelter spaces in the state.

Clay County EM Director John Ward said, “The Statewide Notification System perpetuates our culture of safety and preparedness. This financially responsible system puts Florida families first by ensuring real-time alertness during any emergency and by offering potential National Flood Insurance Program savings to homeowners.”

Washington County EM Director Lynn Abel said, “The life and property saving capabilities of the Statewide Notification System extend from metropolitan hubs to hard-working rural communities. Thanks to this system’s implementation, many citizens in rural areas across Florida now have access to reliably accurate real-time information during emergency events.”

Bay County EM Director Mark Bowen said, “The proposed funding priorities would further advance our statewide emergency management efforts. Focusing on preparation and mitigation programs, including those called for in the Community Rating System, will save Floridians money and lead to a more resilient state.”

Charlotte County EM Director Wayne Sallade said, “The proposals in Governor Scott’s budget will allow Florida communities to best prepare for, respond to and recover from any emergencies that may occur. By efficiently building upon existing resources throughout the state, these programs are effective while creating opportunities for cost-avoidances among Florida home and business owners.”

For more information about the Florida Division of Emergency Management, visit www.Floridadisaster.org or follow the Division on Twitter at @FLSERT and Facebook at www.Facebook.com/FloridaSERT.

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