

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

**CONTACT:**

GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE, (850) 488-5394

DEM PUBLIC INFORMATION, (850) 413-9969

**Governor Crist Proclaims September as Florida Preparedness Month**

[www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org)

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist today proclaimed September 2010 as 'Florida Preparedness Month.' In recognition of the month, the Florida Division of Emergency Management will be partnering with more than 3,200 organizations across the U.S. to help create a culture of disaster preparedness.

"With the tropics becoming more active, and as we approach the historical peak of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, it is vital that all of Florida's residents and visitors take the time now to prepare their families, homes and businesses for any disaster that may occur," said Governor Crist. "This month is the perfect time to learn about how to prepare for the potential hazards in your area and to create your disaster plan to ensure you are ready to protect yourself and your loved ones."

In addition to participating in Florida's Preparedness Month, the Division is participating in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Ad Council's seventh annual National Preparedness Ready Campaign, which will focus on encouraging Americans to work together to take concrete actions toward emergency preparedness.

"This is an excellent opportunity for all residents to get involved in local efforts such as Citizen Corps, Community Emergency Response Teams, and local faith and community-based organizations," said Division of Emergency Management Director David Halstead. "By participating in these organizations, Floridians can help prepare for future disasters and learn how to build resiliency in our communities."

The Division of Emergency Management has created an online program to assist Floridians in creating their family or business disaster plan. Visit [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org) and [www.KidsGetaPlan.com](http://www.KidsGetaPlan.com) to get started today!

###



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

**FLORIDA PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS, Florida is the most hurricane vulnerable state in the nation and September ushers in the peak time of the hurricane season; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida's citizenry and numerous visitors must remain aware of, and be prepared for natural hazards, such as hurricanes, and man-made hazards, such as threats to domestic security by adopting a culture of preparedness; and**

**WHEREAS, the State of Florida has developed a Domestic Security strategy fostering collegial partnerships with first responders and emergency managers from local, regional, and state levels to ensure that all Floridians are protected from potential acts of terrorism; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida's State Emergency Response Team and Regional Domestic Security Task Forces remain committed to meeting the needs of Floridians during times of disaster; and**

**WHEREAS, continuous education and community outreach are some of the best methods of preparing and protecting the public for all-hazards; and**

**WHEREAS, all Floridians are urged to take personal responsibility and develop a disaster preparedness plan based on their own needs; and**

**WHEREAS, in 2010, the state of Florida continued to promote the educational resource, [www.KIDSGETAPLAN.com](http://www.KIDSGETAPLAN.com), where students, parents and teachers can obtain safety information, books and learning tools to become better prepared; and**

**WHEREAS, the great State of Florida supports the federal outreach initiative and declaration of September, 2010 as National Preparedness Month;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida do hereby send greetings and best wishes to all observing September 2010 as *Florida Preparedness Month* and participate in activities to increase their personal knowledge of preparing and protecting their families, homes and businesses from the hazards of natural disasters or man-made events and to *GET A PLAN!* for appropriate actions when called to do so by their local authorities.**



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 27th day of August, in the year two thousand ten.

Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in blue ink.

Governor