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2013 SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK WINNERS ANNOUNCED
~ Online voting for Video PSA Contest Through March 1st~

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) announces the winners of the 2013 Severe Weather Awareness Week poster contest and the finalists in the Video Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest. More than 1,000 students from across Florida participated in the Severe Weather Awareness Week Contests.

“The Severe Weather Awareness Week contests are an opportunity for young people from around the state to learn what they can do to be prepared for hazards that affect their communities and to build a culture of preparedness in Florida,” said FDEM Director Bryan W. Koon. "I want to thank each student who submitted an entry to this year’s contests, and congratulate each winner and finalist.”

Winners for the elementary school poster contest were selected from each of the seven regions for FDEM. Poster contest winners will be honored at an event in their school during the 2013 Severe Weather Awareness Week, February 11 - 15.

Poster Contest Winners:
Region 1 – Alexis Fierra Taylor
Ponce de Leon Elementary School, Ponce de Leon, FL

Region 2 – Selena Polk
Canopy Oaks Elementary School, Tallahassee, FL

Region 3 – Stuart McAfee
St. Mark’s Episcopal Day School, Jacksonville, FL

Region 4 – Aleish Ramirez Ortiz
Ridgeview Global Studies Academy, Davenport, FL

Region 5 – Rylee Mack
South Daytona Elementary School, South Daytona, FL

Region 6 – Wyatt Maze
Gulf Elementary School, Cape Coral, FL

Region 7 – Penelopei Perello
Southside Elementary School, Miami, FL
FDEM is encouraging the public to play a role in this year’s 2013 Severe Weather Awareness Week Video PSA contest. For the month of February, Floridians will have a chance to vote on their favorite video PSA from among the finalists listed. To vote visit the Kids Get A Plan Facebook page, www.facebook.com/KidsGetAPlan. The six finalist videos are available under the “video” section. Floridians can vote for their favorite by “liking” the video on the page.

The goal of the 2013 Severe Weather Awareness Week campaign is to promote preparedness by all Floridians for all types of hazards. This campaign allows all Floridians to play a role in selecting the winning submissions. Each of the finalists will receive a prize and winning submissions from each category will be professionally reproduced and incorporated into FDEM’s 2013 media campaign. Winning video PSAs will be announced during National Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 4 – 8, 2013.

Video PSA Contest Finalists:
High School
Flood Safety Puppy Justin Burt
Lawton Chiles High School, Tallahassee, FL

Know Yours! Bryanna Stuart
Port St. Joe High School, Port St. Joe, FL

Make A Plan: Flood Nick Markhart and Spencer Perl
Palmetto Ridge High School, Naples, FL

Middle School
Breaking News Jesse Velazquez
Arvida Middle School, Miami, FL

Get A Plan Amilah Eoonous, Reanna DeGraff,
Danielle Charboneau and Aolani Brown
Liberty Middle School, Ocala, FL

Listen, Watch, Sara Reyes
Evacuate Arvida Middle School, Miami, FL

FDEM would like to thank their 2013 Severe Weather Awareness Week partners for their continued support: AT&T, Florida Association of Broadcasters, Florida Power and Light, Florida Gators IMG Sports Network, Florida State Seminoles IMG Sports Network, American Red Cross, Florida Department of Education, National Weather Service, and Volunteer Florida.

To learn more about Severe Weather Awareness Week in Florida visit www.FloridaDisaster.org/SWAW. To Get A Plan!, visit www.FloridaDisaster.org, and follow FDEM on Twitter at @FLSERT, on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/FloridaSERT and on Google+ at FLSERT.

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