



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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AS THE 2011 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON ENDS, FLORIDA'S SEVERE WEATHER SEASON BEGINS

TALLAHASSEE – Florida emergency management officials today note the formal close of the 2011 Atlantic Hurricane Season and remind Floridians that emergency preparedness does not end with hurricane season.

“As the 2011 Atlantic Hurricane Season winds down, we, along with our state and local partners, are thankful for the minimal impacts experienced by the State of Florida due to tropical storms this season,” said Division of Emergency Management Director, Bryan Koon. “There were an above average number of storms this season, and Floridians were prepared to protect their families, homes and businesses. As we transition into Severe Weather Season, we remind all Floridians to continue and practice preparedness by staying alert to the many hazards we face year-round throughout our state.”

The 2011 Atlantic Hurricane Season was extremely active, tying 2010, 1995, and 1887 for the third most active season since records began in 1851. There were 19 named storms, including seven hurricanes. Three of these storms became a category three or higher on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. Though the Sunshine State was spared a landfall, Tropical Storm Lee brought several inches of rain to the Florida Panhandle and remnant moisture from Tropical Storm Rina produced heavy rain and flooding conditions over portions of Southern Florida.

The coming winter and spring months also bring a threat of severe weather to the state, as strong cold fronts move through. These powerful storms can move at speeds of 30 to 50 mph, produce dangerous downburst winds, large hail and severely destructive tornadoes.

To monitor these potential weather conditions, residents and visitors are encouraged to have a NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio. This portable radio alerts listeners to warnings of possible tornados, severe storms and potential for wildfire.

For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management and to GET A PLAN, please visit www.FloridaDisaster.org. You can follow us on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/FLSERT and on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/FloridaSERT.

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