



Charlie Crist  
Governor

David Halstead  
Interim Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010

**CONTACT:** PUBLIC INFORMATION  
(850) 921-0217  
[www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

### ***OPERATION HAITI RELIEF – RECOVERY DAY 21***

**TALLAHASSEE** - Florida-based disaster response teams continue to assist in the international response and recovery efforts from the 7.0 earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12. Today is day 21 of emergency operations both on the island nation and the Sunshine State.

#### **Response efforts by the state of Florida to date include:**

- On January 15, Governor Charlie Crist issued an Executive Order (#10-06) in response to the earthquake. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) remains operational at a Level 2 or partial activation.
- The State Emergency Response Team has established a Flight Following Cell at the State EOC to track incoming flights from Haiti to Florida. To date 881 flights with 19,727 passengers have returned to Florida airports. Most recently there were 28 flights with 505 passengers on Monday through Tuesday morning.
- Florida's Department of Children and Families (DCF) has provided services to 6,703 individuals coming from Haiti to the United States since January 13.
- The Florida Department of Health reports that 526 persons have been received at Florida hospitals, 413 have been received in South Florida, 76 have been received in the Orlando area and 37 have been received in the Tampa area.
- On January 27 Governor Crist requested that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services activate the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) and provide a plan to support the ongoing medical and humanitarian needs of evacuees.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services activated parts of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) on Monday. The NDMS will provide support to Florida and other states providing resources to the ongoing medical and humanitarian needs of evacuees.
- A medical evacuation flight carrying 19 injured Haitian citizens landed at Palm Beach International Airport late Monday night.
- Volunteer Florida is currently coordinating and assisting 41 community and faith-based organizations that are on the ground or providing services in support of the survivors in Haiti. Over 1,300 volunteers from the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities of Florida, Compassion Alliance, The Eagles Way Foundation, Florida Association of Food Banks, Florida Interfaith Networking In Disaster and Lutheran Services Florida have logged nearly 28,000 hours during entering the three week relief operation.

**(MORE)**

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For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management and to GET A PLAN!, please visit: [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org). All students, teachers and parents can find educational information and free downloadable materials at: [www.KidsGetAPlan.com](http://www.KidsGetAPlan.com). And for the latest situation and flash reports go to: [www.YouTube.com/FloridaSERT](http://www.YouTube.com/FloridaSERT).

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