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FLORIDA HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK IS MAY 24-30

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist has proclaimed May 24 – 30, 2009 as Florida Hurricane Preparedness Week, by urging all Floridians to prepare for the 2009 Atlantic Hurricane Season that begins June 1. This year, state, local and federal officials will be engaged in numerous outreach and training activities throughout the week and beyond.

“This week the State Team and partners will replay the Great Miami Hurricane of 1926 that made landfall in South Florida, exited near Fort Myers, and then hit the western Panhandle,” said Interim State Emergency Management Director Ruben D. Almaguer. “As we are preparing our team, now is the time for all who call the Sunshine State home to get a plan and get ready for the season too.”

‘Hurricane Suiter’ is the 2009 version of the Great Miami Hurricane of 1926 that will challenge disaster response and recovery teams in the State EOC beginning Thursday, May 28 as part of the annual statewide hurricane exercise. This year, state, federal and local partners will be testing catastrophic plans and operations through June 3, with additional training events during the month of June.

The 2009 National Hurricane Survival Initiative will launch the annual hurricane-safety campaign with a media event hosted by the International Hurricane Research Center, located on the campus of Florida International University (FIU), in Miami on Thursday, May 28 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Interim Director Almaguer will join federal and local officials to help get the preparedness message out to the state’s 18 million residents as well as coastal residents nationally. For more information go to: www.hurricanesafety.org

Residents should consult their local emergency management agency to find out when and where there is an event nearby. Florida Hurricane Preparedness Week will be held in tandem with the national outreach initiative. For more information go to: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml

The 2009 Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through November 30, 2009. To develop your personalized family or business disaster plan, go to: www.FloridaDisaster.org

All students, teachers and parents can find educational information and free downloadable materials at: www.KidsGetAPlan.com. And for the latest daily situation and flash reports go to: www.YouTube.com/FloridaSERT.

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