



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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COUNTY AND LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGERS TO MEET FOR ANNUAL CURRENT ISSUES IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

TALLAHASSEE- -More than 80 local and county emergency management officials will participate in the 2009 Current Issues in Emergency Management Seminar hosted by the Florida Division of Emergency Management starting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6 and running through noon on Thursday, October 8 at the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee.

Members of the Division's staff will present information about collaborative efforts involving Florida, Alabama and Georgia's emergency management programs, information on mitigation initiatives, how to assist people with disabilities and an overview on potential weather patterns and threats that may impact the state in coming months. The seminar will also cover updates from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA).

"This is an important gathering for us to understand how we can best support each other as we work to meet the needs of our residents and visitors during tough fiscal times," said Interim Director Ruben D. Almaguer. "This year's seminar will also give our local colleagues more time to interact with state staff in breakout sessions and focus on topics of common interest."

In addition to state officials' participation, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and Dixie and Collier counties emergency management officials will share their agencies' best business practices. On Wednesday, officials will attend various breakout sessions on Legislative and External Affairs, Hazardous Materials, Homeland Security, Recovery, Mitigation, Finance, Logistics and Severe Weather.

A second session for current county directors will be held at the State Logistics Response Center in Orlando from October 20-21 to provide additional individual face-to-face coordination opportunities for each county's lead emergency management officials. All of the state's 67 counties have an emergency management program. Florida's emergency management program is nationally-recognized and accredited by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management and to GET A PLAN!, please visit: www.FloridaDisaster.org. All students, teachers and parents can find educational information and free downloadable materials at: www.KidsGetAPlan.com. And for the latest weekly situation and flash reports go to: www.YouTube.com/FloridaSERT. Or join our blog at: <http://flsertinfo.blogspot.com/>.

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