January 15, 2009 Mike Stone (850) 413-9969

2009 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS WEEK ANNOUNCED
- Officials encourage understanding of hazardous materials and safety practices -

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist has signed a proclamation recognizing January 18 – 24, 2009 as “Hazardous Materials Awareness Week,” in Florida. The Florida Division of Emergency Management, in partnership with the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for Hazardous Materials and the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), join Governor Crist in commemorating the week. This year’s theme: Minimizing Mercury Releases.

“Our goal during the week is to further a ‘culture of preparedness’ and the protection of our residents, businesses, and communities through the proper use and management of hazardous materials,” said Director Craig Fugate, of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. “There will be outreach events statewide to educate Floridians on the proper disposal of the very popular, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).”

In Florida, thousands of first responders and local emergency managers have already received free training provided and/or coordinated by the LEPCs over the last several years. The Committees are required to update and exercise their district-wide hazardous materials emergency plans.

As recent events nationally illustrate, there are potential risks associated with hazardous materials that are a part of our modern life and understanding what this means to Floridians is very important. All residents are urged to ‘GET A PLAN’ and learn about the potential hazards in their communities. Learn more on how to detect the presence of a hazardous material; learn about industry and local warning systems; know your workplace emergency plans and your child’s school disaster plan should an event occur.

Awareness Events taking place during the Week are:

District 1 Local Emergency Planning Committee – Pensacola and surrounding counties

District 1 LEPC will be moderating student panel discussions on Hazardous Materials, mercury emissions, at Northwest Florida State College in Okaloosa County and Pensacola Junior College in Escambia County. Mercury sources, impact of releases and case studies will be on the agenda.

Awareness Week’s focus will be on disposal of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL), symbolic of mercury containing devices, at local Home Depot facilities with further disposal of the mercury by an authorized contractor.

Video recording of the panel and background narrative, on related LEPC activities, will be offered to local media for airing and print. The public will be invited to participate.
For further information and opportunities for participation, contact Jim Crumlish, West Florida Regional Planning Council at (850) 332-7976 or jim.crumlish@wfrpc.org.

**District 2 Local Emergency Planning Committee - Leon and surrounding counties**

The District 2 LEPC and the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross along with Leon County Emergency Management, Tallahassee Fire Department and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will conduct a “Shelter-in-Place” simulation for the media during Hazardous Materials Awareness Week at Home Depot on Capital Circle Northeast. The event will include a discussion on the proper disposal and clean-up method for compact fluorescent lights. For more information, contact Chris Rietow at (850) 488-6211 ext 102.

**District 3 Local Emergency Planning Committee – Gainesville and surrounding counties**

On Wednesday, January 21, the District 3 LEPC and North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team members will hold a hazmat boot camp. Local television, radio and print media are invited. District 3 LEPC will kick off its public education campaign on how a home owner can safely clean-up a broken compact fluorescent light (CFL) and recycling options.

In Lake City (Columbia County), water and wastewater plant operators will be presented with State Emergency Response Commission Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of their efforts to increase community safety by replacing toxic chlorine with a safer alternative. For more information, contact Dwayne Mundy (352) 955-2200, Ext. 108.

**District 4 Local Emergency Planning Committee – Duval/Jacksonville and surrounding counties**

The District 4 LEPC will be coordinating with Clay, Flagler, and St. Johns Emergency Management to show “Keep Mercury from Rising” on public access/cable television and other community venues throughout the week. Local HazMat Response Teams, hospitals, hardware and household good stores, and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Sites throughout the District will distribute literature concerning the hazards of Mercury, as well as the need for recycling/disposal of CFL bulbs and a “How-To” Safety Clean-Up process. For more information, contact Jason Taylor at (904) 279-0885 Ext. 136.

**District 5 Local Emergency Planning Committee – Ocala and surrounding counties**

District 5 will submit a LEPC proclamation to local media outlets within the five county region. The district will also distribute literature to local government agencies and hardware stores on the proper handling and disposal of compact fluorescent light (CFL) which contain Mercury. The LEPC will promote the awareness of recycling options for CFLs at the local Household Hazardous Waste collection centers in each county as well as participating Home Depot stores. For more information, contact Michael Arnold at (352) 732-1315 x228.

**District 6 Local Emergency Planning Committee - Orlando and surrounding counties**

District 6 will be showing the LEPC information video on local county government television stations and the local county Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers to promote public
awareness about the importance of recycling materials that contain mercury. The LEPC members will be visiting elementary classrooms to talk to kids about what items in their house might contain mercury and how and where to recycle it. The LEPC will also conduct three How to Comply Workshops during the week. Additionally, the LEPC is seeking to help promote the recycling of the compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs at local Home Depot Stores. For more information, contact April Raulerson (407) 623-1075 Ext. 335.

District 7 Local Emergency Planning Committee – Central Florida

District 7 will post a copy of the Governors proclamation with a statement of support in the primary newspapers in all five counties. The district will distribute literature to local government agencies, primarily local Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers, and hardware stores on the proper handling and disposal of compact fluorescent lights (CFL) which contain Mercury. The LEPC is also working with the county Solid Waste Division on promotions and/or posters to heighten public awareness about the importance of recycling materials that contain mercury. Additionally, the LEPC is working with Polk County TV to place a public service announcement on the cable channel. For more information, contact Chuck Carter (863) 534-7130.

District 8 Local Emergency Planning Committee - Tampa and surrounding counties

District 8 LEPC will be conducting two How-to-Comply Workshops in Pinellas Park on January 22. In addition, District 8 will provide public service announcements proclaiming January 18-24, 2009 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week to local news media. The PSA’s will include information regarding the proper disposal techniques for fluorescent lighting. For more information, contact John Meyer (727) 570-5151 Ext. 29.

District 9 Local Emergency Planning Committee - Ft. Myers and surrounding counties

Southwest Florida (District 9) Local Emergency Planning Committee will distribute mercury pollution prevention educational materials at Home Depot stores throughout the region and seminars will be conducted in public schools to educate students regarding the dangers associated with mercury.

Other activities planned for the week will include distribution of Hazardous Materials Awareness Week Proclamations to all the political subdivisions of the region. An How to Comply Workshop will be held, January 20, 2009 at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council.

The LEPC will promote Hazardous Materials Awareness Week through media outlets of the region. Additionally, a Public Hazardous Materials Availability Notice will be published in a local news organ of the region and hazardous materials awareness information will be posted on the LEPC’s website during the week. For more information, contact John Gibbons at (239) 338-2250, Ext. 229, or jgibbons@swfrpc.com

District 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee - Treasure Coast

The District 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee will promote Hazardous Materials Awareness Week through Clear Channel radio with PSA spots running throughout the week focused on objects that contain mercury and safe household cleanup. The Department of Health in Indian River and St. Lucie County will participate in an interview segment on public radio. Press releases will be sent to the region’s newspapers as well as the Florida Administrative
Weekly. This information will also be posted on the District 10 LEPC website. Additionally, representing the region, the LEPC and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council Board has passed resolutions adopting Hazardous Materials Awareness Week recognizing the Governor’s Proclamation. For more information, contact Kathryn Boer at (772) 221-4060.

**District 11 Local Emergency Planning Committee – Miami, Ft Lauderdale and Surrounding counties**

The South Florida LEPC is celebrating HazMat Awareness Week 2009 with a series of events designed to promote public information on the dangers associated with Mercury releases. Focus will be given to homeowner safe clean up of broken compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and their proper disposal.

District 11 LEPC will distribute educational materials at several local home improvement stores. Emphasis will be given to those companies that have corporate programs for CFL recycling at their stores.

Outreach at public schools will include engaging broadcast magnet program students to prepare and air a report on CFLs and the planned distribution of student take-home flyers at select schools. High school students can earn community service hours by helping distribute pamphlets at select home improvement stores.

Local FOX News affiliate, WSVN - Channel 7, recently broadcast an investigative report titled “Light Fright,” dealing with the dangers associated with broken CFLs and safety tips for homeowner clean up. The LEPC will reprise the report during HazMat Awareness Week activities. Copies will be made available to interested parties and promoted through the LEPC website.

For more information, contact Manny Cela at celam@sfrpc.com.

For more information on Hazardous Materials programs, please visit [http://hazmat.floridadisaster.org](http://hazmat.floridadisaster.org) or contact the State Emergency Response Commission at (800) 635-7179 or (850) 413-9970.

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**Proclamation Text**

**Florida Hazardous Materials Awareness Week**

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Planning and Community-Right-To-Know Act was passed by Congress in October 1986, and the Florida Hazardous Materials Emergency Response and Community Right-to-Know Act was passed by the Florida Legislature in 1988; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Accidental Release Prevention Program became effective in July 1999, and the Florida Accidental Release Prevention and Risk Management Planning Act was passed by the Florida Legislature in 1998; and

WHEREAS, those laws, implemented by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials, protect the safety and well-being of all Floridians; and
WHEREAS, more than 10,000 businesses and government facilities in Florida have reported the use of hazardous materials, and more than 2,000 hazardous materials incidents are reported in Florida annually; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act requires businesses and government facilities with certain quantities of covered substances to formulate emergency plans and procedures, improve emergency response, and report hazardous materials-related incidents to federal, state and local officials; and

WHEREAS, the Accidental Release Prevention/Risk Management Planning Act requires businesses and government facilities with certain quantities of covered substances to develop plans to prevent accidental releases and have a coordinated emergency response program; and

WHEREAS, right-to-know provisions in the state and federal law help communities become aware of the substances utilized by local facilities;


Signed,

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2009 Hazardous Materials Awareness Week OPED: Word Count 280

What would you do if a train carrying hazardous chemicals suddenly derailed or perhaps a major gas line was ruptured in your neighborhood? Do you have a plan? Would you know what to do to protect your family, home or business?

Governor Crist has proclaimed January 18 – 24, 2009 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in Florida. During the week there will be many outreach activities taking place in communities throughout the State. This year’s theme is Minimizing Mercury Releases, designed to educate Floridians on the proper disposal of compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).

As recent events nationally illustrate, there are potential risks associated with hazardous materials that are a part of our modern life and understanding what this means to you is important. The Emergency
Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) provides an opportunity for all residents in Florida to be aware of the following:

- What facilities and chemicals may be located near you
- Evacuation routes for your home, workplace and your children’s schools
- Shelter-in-place procedures
- Industry and community warning systems
- Prepare a family and/or a business plan

The EPCRA requires certain facilities that have hazardous materials to report their inventories to the State Emergency Response Commission, their Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and local fire department. This information is available to residents upon request to the State Commission or their LEPC. Statewide, the 11 LEPC’s also serve to train our first responders and give emergency officials the technical assistance to safely handle hazardous materials incidents.

This week I urge you to take the time to learn more about the potential hazards you may face in your community. To get a plan please go to: www.FloridaDisaster.org

*Craig Fugate is the director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management in Tallahassee*