



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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FLORIDA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCES 2009 KIDS WEATHER SURVIVAL WEEK, CONTESTS

TALLAHASSEE - Florida's Emergency Management today announced that **Kids Weather Survival Week** is scheduled for **FEBRUARY 1 - 7, 2009**. The annual public awareness campaign includes various activities including a poster and essay contest sponsored by 5 Florida area Radio Disney stations (Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Tampa and West Palm Beach).

Additional **Kids Weather Survival Week** sponsors include the American Red Cross, the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, the Florida Association of Broadcasters, the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association, the Florida Department of Education and Midland Radio Corporation.

"We welcome the addition of Radio Disney as a primary sponsor in 2009 to help promote to children and families the importance of being prepared," said Director Craig Fugate of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. "It takes a team effort and we are proud to have many great sponsors who are committed to this week of education and public awareness."

Poster Contest

Fourth and fifth graders in all 67 school districts are invited to participate in the statewide poster contest. Posters must be postmarked on or before **FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2009** and must arrive at the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross in Tallahassee no later than Monday, January 26, 2009. Winners will be notified by phone. The top winners' artwork is scheduled to be displayed in the State Emergency Operations Center for a full year. For complete contest information please visit: <http://redcross.tallytown.com>

Essay Contest

High school students in all 67 school districts are invited to participate in the statewide essay contest. Student entrants in ninth through twelfth grades are asked to write a 500-word essay responding to the following scenario: *"Imagine that a devastating natural disaster has occurred in your community. There is damage to your home and to the homes in your neighborhood and there may be injuries. Tell us your story of how having a plan in place beforehand helped you, your family, and your pets survive the disaster."*

All entries must be electronically submitted no later than **TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009**. For complete contest information please visit the Just Read, Florida! website at: <http://www.justreadflorida.com/hwaw/EssayContest.asp>

"We're looking for a tremendous response again this year for these contests and want to encourage all eligible students to participate and show off their talents," said Florida's Education Commissioner Eric Smith.

New Prizes for 2009

An overall grand prize winner and six regional winners and their respective teachers will be selected from each of the seven emergency management areas in the state. The grand prize winner will receive year-round passes to Walt Disney World Parks for a family up to four and an "All-Hazards" Weather Radio.

The winning student in each of the remaining emergency management areas will receive Walt Disney World theme park tickets and an "All-Hazards Weather Radio." The teacher of the grand prize winner will receive a \$250 gift certificate and an All-Hazards Weather Radio, and the respective teacher for each of the six regional winners will receive a \$100 gift certificate and an All-Hazards Weather Radio.

The annual kickoff media event and award ceremonies will be held at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista beginning on Saturday, January 31, 2009.

These contests are a part of an annual public awareness campaign that also includes the distribution of the Florida Hazardous Weather Awareness Guide as well as the statewide *Tornado Drill* to be conducted by the National Weather Service Offices in Florida at 10:10 a.m. Eastern Time (9:10 a.m. Central Time), on Wednesday, February 4, 2009, by the Florida offices of the National Weather Service.

For more information on the 2009 Kids Weather Survival Week go to www.FloridaDisaster.org

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Complete list of 2009 Prizes:

- Grand prize: Walt Disney World theme park annual passes for a family of 4 and one All-Hazards Weather Radio
- Second Place: Walt Disney World three day ticket with the park hopper option for a family of 4 and one All-Hazards Weather Radio
- Third Place: Walt Disney World one day ticket with park hopper option for a family of 4 and one All-Hazards Weather Radio
- Places 4-7: Walt Disney World one day single theme park ticket and an All-Hazards Weather Radio
- Homeroom teacher of grand prize winner will receive \$250 and one All-Hazards Weather Radio
- Homeroom teachers of places 2-7 will receive \$100 and one All-Hazards Weather Radio