FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 13, 2009
Contact: Mike Stone
(850) 413-9883

FLORIDA TO SEND ADDITIONAL DISASTER RECOVERY SPECIALISTS TO AID KENTUCKY ICE STORM SURVIVORS

TALLAHASSEE – The state of Florida will send three disaster recovery specialists from the Division of Emergency Management and one coordinator from Volunteer Florida to assist Kentucky officials and residents with ongoing recovery operations in response to the recent ice storms in the Bluegrass State.

The Division of Emergency Management coordinates interstate assistance as part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which allows disaster-impacted states to request and receive assistance from other states quickly and efficiently.

“We are glad to be able to answer the call from our Kentucky colleagues and provide the personnel needed to aid state and local recovery efforts for ice storm survivors,” said Craig Fugate, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. “The EMAC system gives all states a vital method by which to coordinate and obtain essential resources during their times of need.”

The Tallahassee and Orlando-based volunteer and recovery personnel will depart by Monday to the Kentucky State EOC in Frankfort to begin 10 and 14-day deployments respectively. Florida team members will help establish state Public Assistance and Volunteer and Donations programs, and provide training to disaster officials in Kentucky.

Earlier this month Florida sent six Regional Emergency Response Network (RERNs) mobile communication units with 30 personnel from the Florida National Guard (FLNG) and a Recovery Support Team from the Division of Emergency Management to Paducah, Kentucky. Those teams safely returned to Florida on February 10, 2009.

Kentucky was one of 35 states that responded to Florida’s need for assistance during the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) was developed after Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida in 1992 as a way for states to help each other during a major disaster. In response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Florida committed more than 7,000 responders to assist impacted areas in Mississippi and Louisiana.

For more information on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, please go to www.emacweb.org. For 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 daily situation and flash reports go to: www.YouTube.com/FloridaSERT.

###

**Media contacts:**

**Mike Stone**  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
850-413-9883  
[www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org)