EMERGENCY MANAGERS OFFER LAST MINUTE GIFT SUGGESTIONS
~Practical gifts, disaster kits and safety tips for the holiday season~

TALLAHASSEE - - Officials at the Florida Division of Emergency Management, in the spirit of the holiday season, would like to offer some last minute gift suggestions and safety tips that are ideal for the “person who has everything,” as well as every home.

“Every home can use a weather alert radio,” said David Halstead, interim deputy director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. “This is a very practical gift that can be invaluable to residents when severe weather approaches.”

In addition to weather radios; flashlights, batteries, first-aid kits, smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers are essential supply items that everyone can use. If your home kit is in order, perhaps it’s time to build a second safety kit for your car or boat. These items are widely available and reasonably priced to fit any budget.

December is an excellent time to recycle items from your personal disaster supply kits. Although most canned food items last for quite awhile, check the expiration date and consider donating non-expired items to your local food bank or charity. Bottled water should not be stored for prolonged periods but can be used to water plants and Christmas trees.

Interim Deputy Director Halstead also offers a few holiday safety tips; “Please remember to turn off your tree lights, space-heating devices, and fully extinguish candles and fireplaces when not at home. Too many times we’ve heard of tragic events where a family returns from shopping to find their home in ashes. We want all Floridians to have a safe holiday season.”

For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management and to GET A PLAN!, please visit: www.FloridaDisaster.org. 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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www.FloridaDisaster.org
DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- **Water** - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- **Food** - at least enough for 3 to 7 days
  - non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
  - foods for infants or the elderly
  - snack foods
  - non-electric can opener
  - cooking tools / fuel
  - paper plates / plastic utensils
- **Blankets / Pillows, etc.**
- **Clothing** - seasonal / rain gear / sturdy shoes
- **First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs**
- **Special Items** - for babies and the elderly
- **Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes**
- **Flashlight / Batteries**
- **Radio** - Battery operated and NOAA alert radio
- **Cash** - Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.
- **Keys**
- **Toys, Books and Games**
- **Important documents** - in a waterproof container
  - insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- **Tools** - keep a set with you
- **Vehicle fuel tanks filled**
- **Pet care items**
  - proper identification / immunization records / medications
  - ample supply of food and water
  - a carrier or cage
  - muzzle and leash