FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 31, 2009
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2009 KIDS WEATHER SURVIVAL WEEK
POSTER AND ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL – Florida Emergency Management Director Craig Fugate today
joined Radio Disney officials and partners to announce the winners of the first annual Kids
Weather Survival Week poster and essay contests during ceremonies at Downtown Disney in
Lake Buena Vista.

"It’s great to celebrate and honor the fine work of our future leaders and the dedicated
teachers who mentor them daily," said Craig Fugate, director of the Florida Division of
Emergency Management. “I join our partners in urging all Floridians to take time this week to
understand and prepare for severe weather events they may face.”

More than 400 students statewide participated in the poster and essay contests, through
a partnership with the American Red Cross and the Florida Department of Education. The top
finalists’ artwork and essays will be displayed in the halls of the Historic State Capitol and the
State Emergency Operations Center during the first two weeks of February.

The first place winner of the poster contest is Viktoria Friedrich, a 5th grade student at
Lost Lake Elementary School in Lake County. The statewide winner of the essay contest is Tina
Vu, a 12th grade student at Sandalwood High School in Duval County.

New Prizes and Radio Disney partner in 2009

An overall grand prize winner, six regional winners and their respective teachers were
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, courtesy of the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, 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.

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The student contests are part of an annual public awareness campaign by the Division of Emergency Management and Radio Disney together with sponsorship from 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.

Earlier today, the contest winners and their families were treated to a VIP tour of the Storm Struck exhibit at EPCOT, developed in part by the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH).

Kids GET A PLAN! at www.kidsgetaplan.com

Also new for 2009, an interactive Website has been developed by the Division and i.d.e.a.s. to give all students (K through 6), teachers and residents; free downloadable information, educational activities and stories on Florida weather hazards. Go to www.kidsgetaplan.com to learn more today.

On Wednesday, February 4, the statewide Tornado Drill will be conducted by the National Weather Service Offices in Florida at 10:10 a.m. Eastern Time (9:10 a.m. Central Time). This year, the test will include actual over-the-air messages via the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and NOAA Alert Radios. In the event of an actual severe weather threat, the test would be moved to the same time on Friday, February 6.

“By preparing students for weather-related hazards, more families in Florida will be ready with a survival plan when a natural disaster strikes,” added Director Fugate. “We want all schools statewide to participate in the annual tornado drill on Wednesday.”

Counties across the state will be holding numerous local events during this time. Contact your local emergency management agency or go to: www.FloridaDisaster.org for a listing of Kids Weather Survival Week events.

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2009 Essay Contest Winners

First Place: Region 3: Tina Vu / Grade 12 / Sandalwood High School / Duval County

Second Place: Region 4: Susan Huang / Grade 9 / King High School / Hillsborough County

Third Place: Region 5: Ky’Shonda Swain / Grade 12 / West Port High School / Marion County

Regional Runners Up

Victoria Anderson / Grade 10 / Crestview High School / Okaloosa County
Amber McClellen / Grade 12 / Jefferson County Middle-High School / Jefferson County
Marina Celano / Grade 12 / Fort Myers High School / Lee County
Haley Riddering / Grade 11 / The College Academy at Broward College / Broward County

2009 Poster Contest Winners

First Place: Region 5 Viktoria Friedrich / Grade 5 / Lost Lake Elementary School / Lake County

Second Place: Region 1 Austin Weightman / Grade 4 / Kenwood Elementary School / Okaloosa Co.

Third Place: Region 3 Kevin Logan / Grade 4 / Bunnell Elementary School / Flagler County

Regional Runners Up

Bayley Goodson / Grade 4 / Gilchrist Elementary School / Leon County
Melanie Larson / Grade 5 / David Fairchild Elementary School / Miami-Dade County
Darren Starling / Grade 5 / Brooker Elementary School / Bradford County
Kimberly Sapp / Grade 5 / Wicklow Elementary School / Seminole County

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

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Florida Kids Weather Survival Week  
February 1-7, 2009  
Events Calendar

Saturday, January 31, 2009  
Kickoff Media event and award announcement ceremony  
4:30 p.m.  
Downtown Disney Marketplace  
1780 Buena Vista Drive  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830  
Contact: Mike Stone (850) 413-9883 or 528-8975  
(407) 828-3800 - Marketplace

Monday, February 2, 2009  
Poster and Essay Contest Artwork on Display February 2-7  
The Historic Capitol Building – Room 108  
South Monroe Street and Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Additional entries to go on display at the State EOC in the Southwood Campus  
Contact: Mike Stone (850) 413-9883  
Florida Division of Emergency Management

Tuesday, February 3, 2009  
Statewide Tornado Drill Media Conference Call  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
Directors Conference Room  
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd  
Tallahassee, FL 32399 -2100  
Time 9:00 a.m.  *Dial-in number to be sent separately Monday

Wednesday, February 4, 2009  
Statewide Tornado Drill  
10:00 a.m. - Tornado Drill  
Contact: Ben Nelson (850) 413-9885

Friday, February 6, 2009  
Alternate Tornado Drill date*  

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