FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER TO HOST
WMD AWARENESS COURSES
~Special response equipment to be displayed at the State EOC on April 16th ~

TALLAHASSEE— The Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) will host a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Awareness Level Class, conducted by representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Center for Domestic Preparedness, April 15 -16, 2003 at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Over 150 attendees, representing the fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services, volunteer agencies and emergency management will be trained on techniques ranging from identification of chemical and biological agents to WMD decontamination and personal protective equipment. Course participation is by prior registration only.

“These classes are part of the State’s ongoing commitment to assure that Florida’s emergency responders and personnel are prepared to handle all-hazards,” said Craig Fugate, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. “It’s also an excellent opportunity for the public to see some of the specialized equipment that has greatly increased the local agencies’ ability to protect lives.”

On Wednesday, April 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., there will be a public display and media availability of emergency equipment from the Tallahassee-Leon County area. This will include hazardous device removal and specialized equipment used by firefighters and law enforcement first responders.

Representatives from the DEM State Emergency Response Team (SERT), Leon County Sheriff’s Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Big Bend Bomb Squad and the Tallahassee Police and Fire Departments will be on hand to demonstrate and answer questions on equipment operation.

The State Emergency Operations Center is located at 2575 Shumard Oak Blvd., in the State Capital Circle Office Complex off Capitol Circle, SE. For more on the Division of Emergency Management, please go to: www.floridadisaster.org

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