



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, each year Floridians face the threat of severe weather events such as tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding, extreme temperatures, lightning, and hurricanes, all with potential impact to life and property; and

WHEREAS, last year Florida was impacted by four separate tropical systems, including Hurricane Irma, which caused record-breaking impacts across Florida, including sheltering and evacuation; and

WHEREAS, continued population growth increases the need for families to get a plan and be prepared; and

WHEREAS, numerous weather-related injuries and substantial property damage occurred in 2017 due to severe weather; and numerous weather-related injuries and property damage in excess of \$4.47 billion occurred in 2017 due to severe weather, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and rip currents, extreme temperatures, thunderstorms, straight-line winds, flooding, and lightning were the cause of death for at least 130 people and cause of injury for more than 150 additional individuals; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that an effective public outreach program highlight all types of severe weather risks and a preparedness campaign educate citizens and visitors in Florida; and


WHEREAS, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, along with its local, state and federal partners, volunteer and professional associations, elected leaders, and news media are committed to educating Florida citizens and visitors about severe weather preparedness so they may better protect themselves, their families, and their businesses; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida and the *Get A Plan!* public education campaign help citizens and visitors understand the importance of emergency preparedness and provide them with the tools necessary to be prepared in emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing January 22 – 26, 2018, as *Severe Weather Awareness Week in Florida* and encourage our citizens to become more aware of severe weather safety measures and participate in the various programs during the week, such as the Statewide Tornado Drill on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at 10 a.m.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 24th day of January, in the year two thousand eighteen.



Governor