



STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
"State Emergency Response Team"

JEB BUSH
Governor

W. CRAIG FUGATE
Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Media Release
October 09, 2006

Contact: Mike Stone
(850) 413-9969

EMERGENCY MANAGERS TO MEET FOR ANNUAL "CURRENT ISSUES" SEMINARS

TALLAHASSEE – Over 100 local and county emergency management officials will convene Tuesday at the State Emergency Operations Center for the first session of the 2006 *Current Issues in Emergency Management Seminars*, hosted by the Division of Emergency Management (DEM). DEM Director Craig Fugate will kickoff the three-day session titled "*Building on Lessons Learned*," which is designed to give local managers an overview on the state's operation, current programs, as well as an opportunity to meet with members of the State Emergency Response Team (SERT).

"This year we will be featuring a county showcase panel to highlight some of the best practices across the state," said Director Fugate. "It's an important time for us to learn how we can best support each other as together we strive to meet the needs of the nearly 18 million residents who call the state of Florida home."

In addition to the local showcases by Hernando, Seminole and Miami-Dade counties, various discussion topics will include National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance, Domestic Security, Local Mitigation Strategy, and updates by the National Weather Service on the impacts of El Nino going into 2007.

The annual session will repeat a similar agenda (Session 2) later this month, October 24 through the 26, to allow additional participation among the emergency management community. All of Florida's 67 counties have an emergency management program.

"We have learned that flexibility is a key element to any plan so we've offered dual sessions again this year so our colleagues can work around any local events and still join us in State EOC," added Fugate.

The proceedings are scheduled to be recorded by WFSU – TV / The Florida Channel for future playback. Go to <http://www.wfsu.org> for channel listings and program information.

In June, the state launched a new Web-based tool where residents can go to can build and customize their own personal or business disaster plans. For more information on preparedness and how you can GET A PLAN! please visit: www.Floridadisaster.org

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**STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER TO HOST
2006 CURRENT ISSUES IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SEMINARS**

WHO: Division of Emergency Management Director Craig Fugate and staff from the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM), members of the State Emergency Response Team, and county emergency management directors.

WHAT: 2006 Current Issues in Emergency Management Seminar(s)

WHEN: Tuesday through Thursday, October 10-12, 2006 (Session 1)

*******MEDIA AVAILABILITY*****Tuesday, October 10, 2006 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

WHERE: State Emergency Operations Center (South entrance)
2575 Shumard Oak Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32399

WHY: The Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) will host two seminars, October 10-12 and October 24-26, 2006 at the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee. The annual meetings are designed to give county emergency managers an overview on the state operation and programs as well as an opportunity to meet individually with Director Craig Fugate and DEM staff.

This year's sessions titled, "Building on Lessons Learned" will also showcase activities and best practices by small, medium and large counties as part of the multi-day seminars.

HOW: Contact Mike Stone, Public Information Officer, at (850) 413-9969

For more information on the Division of Emergency Management please go to:
www.FloridaDisaster.org

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