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Aware Week
2009

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

W. CRAIG FUGATE
Director

January 18, 2008 Example

Mike Stone (850) 413-9969

2008 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS WEEK ANNOUNCED
- Officials encourage understanding of hazardous materials and safety practices -

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist has signed a proclamation recognizing January 20 – 26, 2008 as “Hazardous Materials Awareness Week,” in Florida. The Florida Division of Emergency Management, in partnership with the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for Hazardous Materials and the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), join Governor Crist in commemorating the week.

“Our goal this week is to further a ‘culture of preparedness’ and the protection of our residents, businesses, and communities through the proper use and management of hazardous materials,” said Director Craig Fugate, of the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

In Florida, thousands of first responders and local emergency managers have already received free training provided and/or coordinated by the LEPCs over the last several years. The Committees are required to update and exercise their district-wide hazardous materials emergency plans.

As recent events in Jacksonville and Tampa illustrate, there are potential risks associated with hazardous materials that are a part of our modern life and understanding what this means to you is very important. All residents are urged to ‘GET A PLAN’ and learn about the potential hazards in their communities. Learn more on how to detect the presence of a hazardous material; learn about industry and local warning systems; know your workplace emergency plans and your child’s school disaster plan should an event occur.

Awareness Events taking place during the Week are:

District 2 Local Emergency Planning Committee- Leon and surrounding counties

The District 2 LEPC and the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross will conduct a “Shelter-in-Place” simulation and demonstration on Thursday, January 24, at 10:00 am at the American Red Cross Office, 187 Office Plaza Drive, Tallahassee. For more information, **contact Katie Sherk at (850) 878-5935.**

District 3 Local Emergency Planning Committee – Gainesville and surrounding counties

The District 3 LEPC and Alachua County Emergency Management are working together to put a public service announcement on the local government cable television channel. Local governments have been encouraged to host a new Florida First Responder Awareness Level class in each county. In Columbia County, the water and wastewater plant operators will be presented

with their State Emergency Response Commission Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of their efforts to increase community safety by replacing multiple ton containers of chlorine with a safer alternative. For more information, **contact Dwayne Mundy (352) 955-2200, Ext. 108.**

District 4 Local Emergency Planning Committee – Duval/Jacksonville and surrounding counties

The District 4 LEPC will be posting a “Hazardous Materials Awareness Week” proclamation in the Times Union and the Florida Administrative Weekly and airing a hazardous materials awareness video on the local public access channel. The Northeast Florida Regional Council will also issue a press release to CBS 47 and Fox 30 news in recognition of the week. For more information, **contact Heather Golightly at (904) 279-0885 Ext. 113.**

District 6 Local Emergency Planning Committee - Orlando and surrounding counties

The District 6 LEPC plans to host propane gas training during Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in late January. The LEPC is also putting together a Hazardous Materials Awareness handout for Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. For more information, **contact April Raulerson (407) 623-1075.**

District 8 Local Emergency Planning Committee - Tampa and surrounding counties

District 8 LEPC will be conducting two EPCRA How-to-Comply Workshops in Pinellas Park on January 22. There will be a LEPC meeting at the Manatee County Emergency Operations Center January 23 to discuss Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. On January 24, an EPCRA How-to-Comply Workshop will be conducted for strawberry growers in Plant City. For more information, **contact Bill Lofgren (727) 570-5151 Ext. 33.**

District 9 Local Emergency Planning Committee - Ft. Myers and surrounding counties

District 9 submitted an LEPC proclamation to the local media (print and broadcast) outlets of the region. Other activities planned for the week include distributing Hazardous Materials Awareness Week Proclamations to all the political subdivisions within the region, an Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act “How to Comply” workshop will be conducted, January 25, 2008, a Public Availability Notice will be included in a local newspaper of the region and hazardous materials awareness information will be posted on the LEPC’s website during the week. For more information, **contact John Gibbons (239) 338-2250, Ext. 229.**

District 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee - Treasure Coast

District 10 is delivering a series of postcards to LEPC members and 302 facilities in all four counties in the region focusing on a different educational topic each post card for three weeks. The Indian River County Health Department will do a 5 minute segment on public radio on Thursday, January 24, 2008. For more information, **contact Kathryn Boer at (772) 221-4060.**

For more information on Hazardous Materials programs, please visit <http://hazmat.floridadisaster.org> or contact the State Emergency Response Commission at (800) 635-7179 or (850) 413-9970.

Proclamation Text

Florida Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Planning and Community-Right-To-Know Act was passed by Congress in October 1986, and the Florida Hazardous Materials Emergency Response and Community Right-to-Know Act was passed by the Florida Legislature in 1988; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Accidental Release Prevention Program became effective in July 1999, and the Florida Accidental Release Prevention and Risk Management Planning Act was passed by the Florida Legislature in 1998; and

WHEREAS, those laws, implemented by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials, protect the safety and well-being of all Floridians; and

WHEREAS, more than 10,000 businesses and government facilities in Florida have reported the use of hazardous materials, and more than 2,000 hazardous materials incidents are reported in Florida annually; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act requires businesses and government facilities with certain quantities of covered substances to formulate emergency plans and procedures, improve emergency response, and report hazardous materials-related incidents to federal, state and local officials; and

WHEREAS, the Accidental Release Prevention/Risk Management Planning Act requires businesses and government facilities with certain quantities of covered substances to develop plans to prevent accidental releases and have a coordinated emergency response program; and

WHEREAS, right-to-know provisions in the state and federal law help communities become aware of the substances utilized by local facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing *Florida Hazardous Materials Awareness Week*, January 20-26, 2008.

Signed, January 14, 2007

2008 Hazardous Materials Awareness Week OPED: Word Count 263

What would you do if a nearby chemical plant suddenly exploded or perhaps a major gas line was deliberately ruptured in your neighborhood? Do you have a plan? Would you know what to do to protect your family, home or business?

Governor Crist has proclaimed January 20 – 26, 2008 as *Hazardous Materials Awareness Week* in Florida. During the week there will be many educational activities taking place in communities throughout the State.

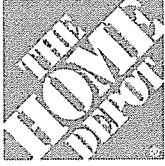
As recent events in Jacksonville and Tampa illustrate, there are potential risks associated with hazardous materials that are a part of our modern life and understanding what this means to you is important. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) provides an opportunity for all residents in Florida to be aware of the following:

- What facilities and chemicals may be located near you
- Evacuation routes for your home, workplace and your children's schools
- Shelter-in-place procedures
- Industry and community warning systems
- Prepare a family and/or a business plan

The EPCRA requires certain facilities that have hazardous materials to report their inventories to the State Emergency Response Commission, their Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and local fire department. This information is available to residents upon request to the State Commission or their LEPC. Statewide, the 11 LEPC's also serve to train our first responders and give emergency officials the technical assistance to safely handle hazardous materials incidents.

This week I urge you to take the time to learn more about the potential hazards you may face in your community. To get a plan please go to: www.FloridaDisaster.org

Craig Fugate is the director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management in Tallahassee



Potential
private-sector
partner

**THE HOME DEPOT LAUNCHES NATIONAL
CFL BULB RECYCLING INITIATIVE
Also Implementing In Store Energy Conservation Program**

ATLANTA, June 24, 2008 – The Home Depot®, the world's largest home improvement retailer, today expanded its long-term commitment to the environment and sustainability by launching a national in-store, consumer compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb recycling program at all 1,973 The Home Depot locations. This free service is the first such offering made so widely available by a retailer in the United States and offers customers additional options for making environmentally conscious decisions from purchase to disposal. The Home Depot Canada launched a CFL recycling program in November, 2007.

At each The Home Depot store, customers can simply bring in any expired, unbroken CFL bulbs, and give them to the store associate behind the returns desk. The bulbs will then be managed responsibly by an environmental management company who will coordinate CFL packaging, transportation and recycling to maximize safety and ensure environmental compliance.

In addition to the CFL recycling program, The Home Depot has also launched an in store energy conservation program to switch Light Fixture Showrooms in U.S. stores from incandescent bulbs to CFLs by Fall 2008 and save \$16 million annually in energy costs.

The CFL recycling program is an extension of The Home Depot's Eco Options program. Eco Options, launched in April 2007, is a classification that allows customers to easily identify products that have less of an impact on the environment.

“The CFL recycling program is another example of how The Home Depot is empowering customers to help make a difference in their own homes, and have less of an impact on the environment,” said Ron Jarvis, senior vice president, Environmental Innovation. “With more than 75 percent of households located within 10 miles of a Home Depot store, this program is the first national solution to providing Americans with a convenient way to recycle CFLs.”

Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is an easy change consumers can make to reduce energy use at home. According to the EPA's ENERGY STAR[®] program, if every American switched out one incandescent bulb to a CFL, it would prevent more than 600 million in annual energy costs and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from 800,000 cars. As the largest retailer of light bulbs in the country, The Home Depot sold over 75 million CFL's in 2007, which saved Americans approximately \$4.8 billion in energy costs and 51.8 billion pounds in CO2 greenhouse gases over the life of the bulbs.

Other environmental initiatives The Home Depot has implemented since the launch of Eco Options in April 2007 include:

- Store recycling program in the U.S. of shrink wrap and mixed plastics, which will result in 50 million pounds of waste diverted from landfills each year.
- Internal recycling initiative at corporate headquarters that is projected to increase the amount of recycled materials from 30 percent to at least 65 percent.
- Renewed commitment to use transportation partners registered in SmartWay program and ensuring The Home Depot distribution facilities and stores further promote emission reduction.

For more information on the CFL Recycling Program or Eco Options, please visit www.homedepot.com/ecoptions.

About The Home Depot

The Home Depot[®] is the world's largest home improvement specialty retailer, with 2,262 retail stores in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, 10 Canadian provinces, Mexico and China. In fiscal 2007, The Home Depot had sales of \$77.3 billion and earnings from continuing operations of \$4.2 billion. The Company employs more than 300,000 associates. The Home Depot's stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: HD) and is included in the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index.

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For more information, contact:

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