



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

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 January 18 - 24, 2009 as *Florida Hazardous Materials Awareness Week*.



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 18th day of December, in the year two thousand eight.

Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in black ink, written over a horizontal line.
Governor