



STATE OF FLORIDA

## DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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### FLORIDA'S 2013 STATEWIDE HURRICANE EXERCISE UNDER WAY

~Annual exercise works to prepare emergency managers for upcoming season~

**TALLAHASSEE** — Florida's State Emergency Response Team (SERT) hosts the 2013 Statewide Hurricane Exercise Monday, May 20 through Thursday, May 23 at the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee. The annual exercise serves to practice Florida's emergency plans and procedures for a potential hurricane making landfall in the state, in preparation for the upcoming Atlantic Hurricane Season. Along with federal, local and private-sector partners, SERT will simulate emergency response efforts to manage an evolving hurricane scenario.

"Last year, Floridians were reminded of the significant impacts a tropical system can have on a community," said Bryan W. Koon, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. "Hurricanes and tropical storms are a reality of life in Florida, and I encourage all residents and visitors to take the opportunity to review their emergency plans and disaster supply kits in preparation for the upcoming Atlantic Hurricane Season."

The 2013 Statewide Hurricane Exercise scenario centers on the potential landfall of two fictitious storms, Hurricane Kirk and Hurricane Lay. Hurricane Lay is named in honor of the late Brevard County Emergency Management Director Bob Lay, a nationally respected emergency manager.

This year, the annual hurricane exercise will include participants from eleven different states and the United States Military. The exercise serves as an important opportunity to strengthen plans and relationships among local, state, federal, and private sector partners.

The 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins Saturday, June 1. Make sure your family and business are prepared to follow the instructions of local officials if a hurricane threatens your community by knowing the nearest shelter, making an evacuation plan and having a disaster supply kit.

For more information about the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season in Florida, and to Get A Plan!, visit [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org), and follow FDEM on Twitter at @FLSERT, on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/FloridaSERT](http://www.Facebook.com/FloridaSERT) and [www.Facebook.com/KidsGetAPlan](http://www.Facebook.com/KidsGetAPlan).

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