

Dear Friends,

Florida's location and many miles of coastline make us especially vulnerable to nature's violent storms. History teaches us that we must continue to pray for the best and plan for the worst. As we mark the beginning of the 2008 hurricane season this weekend on June 1, I urge every Floridian to get a disaster preparedness plan, review it with your family and stock up on necessary hurricane supplies.

Florida is recognized nationally for our state's ability to plan and react when natural disasters threaten our shores. Our team is a model for the nation because of our experience. Florida has been tested again and again, and the past several years have required us to reach new levels of preparation. This past week I visited the National Hurricane Center and met with emergency personnel who are on the frontlines of Florida's preparations. I am confident our state is prepared for the upcoming storm season.

Just as state and local governments get ready for a pending storm, so must every Floridian. Many major retailers are offering special sales this week on basic hurricane supplies such as flashlights, batteries, portable radios and water. A more complete list of recommended items and a step-by-step process for creating your disaster plan can be found at www.floridadisaster.org. Every Floridian has a responsibility to get ready, and now is the time to be prepared.

May God continue to bless each of you and keep our state safe during this hurricane season.

