



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week is observed each year by the National Weather Service to increase awareness of and preparedness for severe weather hazards; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Severe Weather Awareness Week focuses on common natural hazards occurring in Florida including lightning, marine hazards, rip currents, thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding, temperature extremes, and wildfires; and

WHEREAS, lightning is one of nature's deadliest and most unpredictable weather phenomena, and all thunderstorms contain lightning that can abruptly strike people or property; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Weather Service the State of Florida has the highest occurrence of thunderstorms in the United States; and

WHEREAS, rip currents claim more lives in the State of Florida than hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, and lightning combined; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Weather Service the State of Florida has the most hurricane impacts of any state in the nation and can cause severe damage from high winds, storm surge, and heavy rain; and

WHEREAS, flooding is one of Florida's most frequent hazards and is a statewide threat that can occur at any time of the year; and

WHEREAS, thousands of acres of land and many homes are affected by wildfires that can erupt at any time of the year in Florida from a variety of causes; and

WHEREAS, each year Floridians face the threat of severe weather events that are potentially dangerous to life, health, and property; and

WHEREAS, Florida's residents and visitors must be aware of and prepared for several year-round threats such as flooding, rip currents, and wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Division of Emergency Management responds to disasters throughout the year and remains committed to meeting the needs of Floridians; and

WHEREAS, education and community outreach remain critical components of preparing and protecting the public from these natural hazards, especially informing about the critical importance of generator safety; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida encourages every resident and visitor to visit their local County Emergency Management website and social media pages for the most up-to-date and locally significant information to create locally-specific disaster plans for their households; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing February 6-10, 2023, as *FLORIDA SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK* and participating in activities to increase their personal knowledge of and preparing and protecting their families, homes, and businesses, from natural hazards that impact Florida.



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 6th day of February, in the year two thousand twenty-three.

A blue ink signature of Ron DeSantis, written over a horizontal line.

Governor