



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

May 23, 2010

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome all attending the 24th Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference this week in Ft. Lauderdale. With the start of the 2010 Atlantic Hurricane season just over a week away, this yearly gathering of our great State's first responders, faith and community-based service providers, and emergency management professionals brings together what I believe is this nation's finest emergency management team.

Once again in the past year I have seen the unwavering commitment of Florida's first responders as flooding, wildfires, tornadoes and tropical systems threatened. From the unprecedented flooding throughout Northern Florida in the Spring of 2009, to the tornadoes and flooding that impacted Volusia County on multiple occasions, I remain amazed at the resilience of our team and the people impacted by these terrible events. 2010 has already brought our State an unprecedented and historic cold spell and more severe weather. We must remain vigilant and prepare for what may come this Hurricane Season.

This year's Conference is vital to maintaining that sense of commitment and public service because of the continued economic challenges that all of us are facing, both professionally and personally. Despite these circumstances, we must be ready to answer the call to serve our fellow Floridians.

As you attend the many workshops and training sessions this week, I urge you to reach out, meet new colleagues, and share your experiences. By collaboration, coordination and your continued creativity, we can weather these tough times while maintaining our mission of serving the 18 million residents who call the Sunshine State their home.

Again, I extend my sincerest thanks for your excellent work and public service, and welcome to this very important conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist