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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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2002 Hurricane/Emergency Management Conference Scheduled for March 18-20

COLUMBIA, S.C. (March 12, 2002) -- The 2002 South Carolina Hurricane/Emergency Management Conference, presented by the South Carolina Emergency Preparedness Division, will be held from Monday, March 18 to Wednesday, March 20 at Kiawah Island at the Kiawah Island Resort.

This marks the first time the Division has combined two major annual events: the hurricane conference and the multi-hazard emergency management conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Meeting The Challenges." It will emphasize hurricane preparedness and preventive planning essential to the safeguarding of lives and property in South Carolina, but also will focus on two other tracks: terrorism and multi-hazard planning, to include dam safety and earthquake vulnerability.

Adjutant General Stan Spears is scheduled to attend.

A highlight of the conference will be a presentation by Assistant New York Fire Chief Frank Cruthers, who was incident commander at the World Trade Center from shortly after collapse of the buildings on September 11 through October 16. He will address a general session from 4:05 to 5:15 p.m. on Monday, March 18.

Another presentation related to 911 will be given on Monday, March 18, from 1 to 2:15 p.m. by two South Carolina residents who helped in recovery efforts in New York: Cotton Howell, director of the York County Office of Emergency Management, and Diane Green, disaster specialist with the American Red Cross.

The conference is expected to be the largest ever sponsored by the Division. More than 400 professionals from state, federal and local governments, volunteer organizations, private industry

and other organizations with an interest in or responsibilities related to emergency management have registered.

Kenneth O. Burris Jr., recently appointed director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region IV, which includes eight southeastern states, will give the keynote address during the opening session, which begins at 11:45 on March 18. Other presenters will include:

- Major General (Retired) R.S. "Steve" Siegfried, S.C. Director of Homeland Security;
- William G. Massey, Hurricane Program Manager, FEMA Region IV;
- Dean P. Gulezian, Director, National Weather Service, Eastern Region;
- Frank Calcagno, Senior Engineering Geologist for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;
- Ivan Wong, Senior Consulting Seismologist with URS Corp., which recently completed a study of South Carolina earthquake vulnerability.

Corporate sponsors and exhibitors include American Red Cross, ARAMSCO, AshBritt, Inc., BellSouth, Blanchard Machinery Co., Contaminant Control, Crowder-Gulf, D & J Enterprises, Inc., DuPont Protective Apparel, Eastern Data Plastic Card Systems, ESRI, Ferguson-Harbour Inc., Garner Environmental Services Inc., Glentel, Inc., Grubbs Construction Co., HEPACO, Inc., InterACT, Motorola, North American Catastrophe Services, Inc., Phillips & Jordan, Inc., Santee Cooper, SCE&G, Specialized Disaster Systems International, Inc., State Farm Insurance, USEPA, Region 3, WeatherGuard, and ZUMRO, Inc.

The South Carolina Emergency Preparedness Division is responsible for the statewide emergency management program. It supports the counties and state agencies through training and planning assistance, and it coordinates the delivery of state resources during emergencies. For more information about the Division and emergencies in South Carolina, visit the Division's site on the worldwide web at www.SCEPD.org.

Hurricane season will begin June 1 and continue through Nov. 30.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Print and broadcast reporters are invited...To arrange interviews, contact Joe Farmer at (803) 737-8500. Farmer also will be available to assist media at the conference.