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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EARNS
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS RECOGNITION**

ST. AUGUSTINE – The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has recognized St. Johns County Health Department for its ability to respond to public health emergencies.

St. Johns County Health Department met the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), a unique partnership between NACCHO and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“September 2010 has been proclaimed by the White House as National Preparedness Month, and we are proud to have been recognized by Project Public Health Ready for our high level of preparedness,” said Dawn C. Allicock, M.D., M.P.H., Director of St. Johns County Health Department. “We will continue to improve our ability to quickly and effectively respond to any public health crisis in St. Johns County.”

“NACCHO commends St. Johns County Health Department for being a model of public health emergency preparedness,” said Robert Pestronk, Executive Director of NACCHO. “The public health system is making great strides thanks to the good work of leaders in local public health preparedness such as St. Johns County Health Department.”

Health Departments recognized by PPHR undergo a thorough evaluation process by peer review. PPHR required St. Johns County Health Department to meet expectations in public health preparedness in three key areas; preparedness planning; workforce competency; and demonstration of all-hazards readiness through exercises or a response to a real event

For more information on all Project Public Health Ready recognized sites and project tools and resources, go to <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/pphr.cfm>.

For information on St. Johns County Health Department’s emergency response, contact Risk Manager, Martha Wagaman at 904-673-9507.

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Our Mission: *Promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Florida.*

Our Vision: *A healthier future for the people of Florida.*

Our Values: - Integrity; Commitment to Service; Respect; Excellence; Accountability; Teamwork; Empowerment –



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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.