



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

May 8, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeannine Mallory,
Public Information Officer
Pinellas County Health Department
727-824-6908 (media only)

Florida Department of Health Provides Toll-Free Number for Residents Living Around the Raytheon Plant Site

As part of its commitment to ensuring the health and safety of all Floridians, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) has established a toll-free number for residents living in and around the Raytheon Company, located at 1501 72nd Street North in St. Petersburg. DOH is currently awaiting a report from Raytheon regarding the plume and its location. This information will allow DOH experts to address any possible health risks. The report is due by the end of May and DOH will then have time to review the data.

Until then, area residents who have health-related questions can call the DOH toll-free number at **1-877-798-2772**. Callers may leave a message and calls will be returned within one business day. Note: This toll-free line is for **health-related questions** only. It is not for questions regarding cleanup of the site.

"The Florida Department of Health is working with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to assess the health risk from the use of shallow irrigation wells for watering lawns and home gardens, washing cars and the like," said Randy Merchant, DOH Administrator, Health Assessments Team. "Our team looks at each chemical found at or associated with a site and its known health effects. We inform communities, other agencies and health professionals of our findings and recommendations concerning the site. We are waiting for the report that is due at the end of this month to issue our recommendations."

For more information, visit www.doh.state.fl.us or www.pinellashealth.com

###