



**American
Red Cross**

Inland Northwest Chapter
315 W. Nora Avenue
Spokane, WA 99205
www.SpokaneRedCross.org

News Release
NEWS RELEASE

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Local Red Cross Volunteers Deploy to Louisiana

Local volunteers assist with pre-hurricane efforts in the Gulf

[SPOKANE] WASHINGTON, Thursday, August 28, 2008. The Inland Northwest Chapter of the American Red Cross is preparing to deploy four trained volunteers in support of the pre-hurricane efforts taking place in Louisiana as a result of Hurricane Gustav. Over the next two days Red Cross chapters will move over 200 mobile feeding trucks to Texas, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Over 330 Red Cross volunteers are on scene, with twelve volunteers deployed from Washington State alone.

Today, the local chapter will deploy Peggy Crowder, Wanda Connor, Jodi Steensland, and Keith Reilly in response to the request for volunteers. One volunteer, Sharon Andrews departed yesterday. She will provide technology services by way of setting up communication at the disaster headquarters and service center. The other volunteers will be providing shelter assistance in preparation to register a large number of people.

The Red Cross starts preparing before the storm hits landfall. As evacuation orders are given the Red Cross will be ready with shelters, food and emotional support. All assistance is free, provided by the voluntary contributions of time and money from the American people.

WHO: Peggy Crowder, Wanda Connor, Jodi Steensland

WHAT: Shelter Preparation

WHERE: Baton Rouge, Louisiana; New Orleans, Louisiana

WHEN: Thursday August 28, 2008 11:30 a.m., Spokane International Airport

To set up interviews before departure please contact Margaret Price, Public Affairs Coordinator at (509) 981-3184.

For information about disaster preparedness at home or about training to become a disaster volunteer locally or nationally, contact the Inland Northwest Chapter at 315 W. Nora Avenue, (509) 326-3330 or www.SpokaneRedCross.org.

The American Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year, almost a million volunteers and 35,000 employees helped victims of almost 75,000 disasters; taught lifesaving skills to millions; and helped U.S. service members separated from their families stay connected. Almost 4 million people gave blood through the Red Cross, the largest supplier of blood and blood products in the United States. The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work.

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