



Inland Northwest Chapter  
315 W. Nora Avenue  
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[www.SpokaneRedCross.org](http://www.SpokaneRedCross.org)

## News Release NEWS RELEASE

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### **Local Chapter Kicks off National Preparedness Month in midst of response to Hurricane Gustav**

**[SPOKANE WA. Sept. 1 2008]** As we all watch the devastation occurring in the Gulf Coast region impacted by Hurricane Gustav, the American Red Cross Inland Northwest Chapter wants to remind residents of the importance of being prepared for disasters that may occur here locally such as wildfires, flooding and winter storms. The local chapter joins a nationwide effort that begins today in helping communities to get prepared as part of National Preparedness Month in September.

A national survey reveals that only 7% of Americans have taken the recommended actions to prepare for disasters. "The important thing to remember is that we can each take steps in being better prepared for both natural and man-made disaster that could impact any one of us at any time." says Dawn Lindblom, Executive Director for the American Red Cross Inland Northwest Chapter. Red Cross chapters across the country will conduct activities and outreach to help individuals, families, schools and businesses take action to "Be Red Cross Ready" for all types of disasters and emergencies by: 1) getting a kit, 2) making a plan, and 3) being informed.

During disasters, such as Hurricane Gustav, the Red Cross is ready to help and assist those affected, even when not fully prepared for what may transpire. In just the past few days, the American Red Cross has deployed 101 volunteers from Washington state (13 from Spokane) to join thousands of other volunteers and staff in this response. Thus far, Red Cross workers have delivered: Cots, blankets, comfort kits with hygiene supplies, ready-to-eat meals, more than 200 mobile feeding trucks and have served 45,000 people who have spent the night in 334 Red Cross shelters across multiple states.

If you're interested in becoming trained to participate on local or national relief operations, please contact the local chapter Volunteer Services Department at (509) 326-3330 Ext. #214 or log on to our website at [www.spokaneredcross.org](http://www.spokaneredcross.org).

You can also help the victims of disasters both locally and nationally, by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to victims of disaster.

National Disaster Relief Fund  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)  
1(800) RED-CROSS

Local Disaster Relief Fund  
[www.spokaneredcross.org](http://www.spokaneredcross.org)  
(509)326-3330 ext. 211

To learn more about how you can be prepared, log on to your local chapter web site at [www.spokaneredcross.org](http://www.spokaneredcross.org). or call the local chapter office at (509) 326-3330.

*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. The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 94 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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