



Inland Northwest Chapter
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News Release
NEWS RELEASE

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Local Red Cross Chapters Deploy Volunteers to North Dakota

Volunteers from throughout Eastern Washington Ready to Help with Flooding

[SPOKANE] Washington, March 27, 2009 – As flood waters rise, the American Red Cross continues to recruit more volunteers to assist with sheltering and mental health needs in North Dakota. American Red Cross Chapters from throughout eastern Washington are currently answering that call by coordinating volunteers who will be deploying to assist with disaster relief efforts.

Carol Wickwire, a volunteer from the Kittitas County Chapter headquartered in Ellensburg, left for Fargo on March 24th to assist in mass care shelters. A retired school teacher, this is her first deployment for the American Red Cross. To date, Carol has assisted with the set-up of three Red Cross shelters – one in Minnesota and two in North Dakota.

Dr. Tom Kearney will be flying from Spokane to Fargo on Saturday, March 28th at 7:00 AM to assist with the special mental health concerns related to a large-scale disaster. Dr. Kearney has been with the Inland Northwest Chapter in 2005 and this will be his fourth national deployment.

Dr. Kearney is available for phone interviews prior to his departure. He can be reached at (509) 995-0965.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by the generous donations of time and money from the American people. Donations to support the national disaster relief effort can be made at the Inland Northwest Chapter office or by visiting www.spokaneredcross.org.

About the American Red Cross

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 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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