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*News Release*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Red Cross Continues to Respond to Washington State Flooding**

[SPOKANE] Washington, January 8, 2009 - American Red Cross workers are providing shelter, food and emotional support for the many residents affected by the flooding in Washington State. Last evening, the Red Cross opened over 20 shelters that 258 evacuated residents stayed in overnight.

Over 250 Red Cross disaster relief workers have been constantly monitoring the flood waters and are in communication with local authorities regarding the possible impact upon nearby communities. Red Cross disaster response teams will continue to mobilize volunteers and supplies, such as clean-up kits, into the affected areas as local authorities allow entry. The Red Cross will also provide emotional care and comfort to help residents and emergency workers manage the stress and fear that accompanies all disasters.

To make to a secure online donation go to [www.redcrosswashington.org](http://www.redcrosswashington.org) or call *1-800-REDCROSS* or *1-800-257-7575 (Spanish)*. Checks can be made payable to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund and sent to your local chapter or to P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

The American Red Cross honors donor intent. If you wish to designate your donation to the Washington Floods or your local community, please call your local chapter.

Making a financial gift to support the relief operations is the best way for people to help those affected by the Washington State flooding.

While appreciated, the Red Cross does not accept individual donations of clothing, food, household goods, furniture or other items. The cost to sort, package and distribute these types of donations to disaster victims is almost always greater than the cost of purchasing the items locally.

The Red Cross is not a government agency. All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by the voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. For more information, please contact your local Red Cross chapter or visit [www.redcrosswashington.org](http://www.redcrosswashington.org).

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