



Inland Northwest Chapter  
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*News Release*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Red Cross Volunteers Respond to Seven Emergencies over the last 72 Hours** *Community support sought as need for services increases*

**[SPOKANE] Washington, December 17, 2008**—As Inland Northwest residents huddle together in the face of the coldest weather since 1990, the American Red Cross has been facing the harsh conditions head-on as volunteers work with individuals and families impacted by weather-related emergencies. Red Cross Disaster Action Team volunteers have responded to seven emergencies in the last three days including several fires in the Spokane area and a house fire in Northport that damaged the home of one couple and their ten children. The average number of emergencies the Red Cross typically responds to is one every forty-eight hours.

“As people try to keep warm in this extreme cold, it increases the possibility of an emergency occurring. We encourage everyone to take precautions, but when an emergency happens, the Red Cross is always ready to assist those impacted,” said Dawn Lindblom, Executive Director of the American Red Cross Inland Northwest Chapter.

When responding to an emergency, Red Cross volunteers work with those affected to ensure that each individual’s basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing are being met. To date, forty-one people have received services from the American Red Cross in the month December. All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by the generous donation of time and money from members of the community.

“When we experience a significant increase in fires and other emergencies as we are right now, the Red Cross really depends on the generous contributions of the community,” Lindblom added. “It is especially hard for individuals and families to deal with an emergency situation and begin rebuilding during the holiday season.”

With the arctic weather forecasted to continue for several more days, the American Red Cross is asking the community to remember those who have been affected and consider making a contribution to their local Red Cross Chapter.

To learn more about the American Red Cross Inland Northwest Chapter or to make a donation, call (509) 326-3330 or visit [www.spokaneredcross.org](http://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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