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*Media Alert*  
**MEDIA ALERT**

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## **American Red Cross Volunteers Continue Providing Emergency Relief For Area Residents in Need**

*Shelters are open, serving the needs of the local community*

**SPOKANE WA, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – The local American Red Cross Inland Northwest Chapter is providing relief to those affected by the wild fires throughout the area. Shelter managers say that the operation will continue to provide assistance to those affected as long as residents require help. All assistance is provided for free but the Red Cross relies on contributions from the local community to ensure that these services remain in the future.

**WHAT:** The American Red Cross Inland Northwest Chapter has opened two emergency shelters for those displaced as a result of the recent fires. The Red Cross is providing food, mental health counseling, and overnight stays for those requiring shelter. Our Chapter is also providing canteen services for the firefighters at the fire on Ash. All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by the generous donations of time and money from the American people.

**WHO:** All residents affected by the fires are welcome in the shelter.

**WHY:** Wild Fire warnings are currently in effect for Dishman Hills.

**WHEN:** The shelter will continue to remain operational until American Red Cross and Emergency Management personnel deem it appropriate to close.

**WHERE:** **University High School**

**12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley**

**North Central High School**

**1600 N Howard St. Spokane WA**

For security purposes, members of the media requesting a visit to the shelter must contact Margaret Price, Public Affairs Coordinator, to arrange an interview at (509) 509-981-3184.

*Governed by volunteers and supported by community donations, the American Red Cross is a nationwide network of nearly 1,000 chapters and Blood Services regions dedicated to saving lives and helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Led by 1.2 million volunteers and 30,000 employees, the Red Cross annually mobilizes relief to families affected by more than 67,000 disasters, trains almost 12 million people in lifesaving skills and exchanges more than a million emergency messages for U.S. military service personnel and their families. The Red Cross is the largest supplier of blood and blood products to more than 3,000 hospitals across the nation and also assists victims of international disasters and conflicts at locations worldwide.*

**-End-**