

Red Cross responding after devastating tornados

Mississippi and Alabama hit hardest with weekend tornado outbreaks

Monday, April 26, 2010 – Widespread, severe weather Friday and Saturday caused several destructive tornado outbreaks across the South. The American Red Cross is currently responding to these disasters, which spread across Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. Below is an overview of Red Cross services being provided:

Mississippi:

- * Sunday night one shelter was open with five overnight stays. Additional partner shelters are also open, with Red Cross support.
- * We are doing mobile feeding in emergency response vehicles (ERVs), in addition to partnering with the Salvation Army
- * Trained Red Cross Disaster volunteers are beginning to conduct initial disaster assessment.
- * Red Cross Volunteer mental health workers are also on site in Yazoo City.
- * Safe and Well - a website on which displaced residents can list themselves and being safe for family and friends to see - has been activated .

Alabama

- * One Red Cross shelter was open Sunday night with 75 overnight stays. Three additional Red Cross supported partner shelters were also open, with a total overnight population of 150.
- * Two emergency response vehicles (ERVs) have been deployed, one to Marshall County and one to DeKalb County. Another ERV is also expected to be deployed.
- * Trained Red Cross Disaster volunteers are beginning to conduct initial disaster assessment.
- * Safe and Well has been activated.

Louisiana

- * Several shelters have been opened.
- * We are doing mobile feeding in emergency response vehicles (ERVs), in addition to partnering with the Salvation Army.
- * Red Cross Disaster Workers are currently being sent in from other chapters in-state.
- * Trained Red Cross Disaster volunteers are beginning to conduct initial disaster assessment.
- * Safe and Well has been activated

Local Red Cross volunteers have not been called on yet, but remain on stand-by to deploy if the need arises.

For updates on Red Cross responses to these and other natural disasters, visit redcross.org and read the American Red Cross blog at redcrosschat.org. For more information on how to prepare for natural disasters such as tornados visit redcross.org and the Lee County chapter website arclcc.org.

The Red Cross is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. It provides training in life-saving skills and mobilizes relief to victims of disasters in addition to assisting members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. For additional information about the Red Cross and the assistance it provides, making donations, registering for a class or volunteering, call 278-3401, or log on to arclcc.org. The American Red Cross of Lee County is a proud member of the United Way of Lee County.

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