



**American
Red Cross**

Pikes Peak Chapter

News Release
NEWS RELEASE

Pikes Peak Chapter
1040 South 8th Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
www.pparc.org

Contact: Catherine Nowak
Director of Development & Marketing
Phone: 719-785-2711
Cell: 719-360-6030
Email: cnowak@pparc.org

Colorado Springs, CO

American Red Cross Relief Response– May 10, 2011

Hundreds of Red Cross workers are helping people along the Mississippi River in Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi, providing food and shelter to those whose neighborhoods have flooded.

- The Red Cross is preparing to extend flooding relief efforts even further south into Mississippi and Louisiana as the high waters flow downriver.
- In many neighborhoods in the Mississippi delta, Red Cross workers and community partners are going door to door distributing preparedness information, providing emotional support and talking to residents about how to be ready for the flooding.
- In Mississippi and Louisiana, Red Cross workers are readying additional shelter locations and working with organizations like the NAACP to train more shelter workers.
- The Red Cross has shipped thousands of cots, blankets and comfort kits into the area.
- Red Cross volunteers are providing food and shelter in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas while more workers and equipment are being deployed farther south along the river.
- Floodwaters are expected to remain in some areas for as long as two weeks and the Red Cross is prepared to shelter and feed people who live along the Mississippi for more than a month.
- Red Cross caseworkers, health services volunteers and mental health workers are already at work in some parts of Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi to tend to people's physical and mental health needs.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross continues to help the thousands of people across the South whose neighborhoods were ravaged by the recent tornadoes.

- **Mississippi River flooding forced more than 400 people to seek refuge in shelters in northwest Tennessee Monday night. Another 660 people spent the night in Red Cross shelters across the South.**
- Red Cross workers are staffing shelters and feeding people in Alabama, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Indiana and Kentucky. **From the Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross we have deployed volunteers to assist in disaster relief in Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi.**

The Red Cross estimates that it will spend as much as \$31 million responding to the disasters which have occurred over the past several weeks, while initiating another large-scale relief operation to help people along the Mississippi River.

The Red Cross has received \$17.7 million in pledges and contributions for disaster relief since March 31 to support the current response in 16 states in the South, Midwest, and other parts of the U.S.

The Red Cross has launched more than 20 separate relief operations over more than half of the United States since March 31 responding to wildfires, floods and tornadoes from North Dakota to the East Coast and all throughout the South.

Since the end of March, the Red Cross has:

- Served more than 1.2 million meals and snacks with the help of community partners.
- Opened more than 170 shelters and provided more than 14,000 overnight stays.
- Handed out hundreds of thousands of relief items like hygiene kits, mops, brooms, tarps, shovels, work gloves and coolers.
- Provided more than 26,000 health and mental health consultations.
- Deployed 264 Red Cross emergency response vehicles to help distribute meals and clean-up items throughout neighborhoods torn apart by flooding, tornadoes and wildfires.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please contact the Pikes Peak Chapter at 719-632-3563 or visit www.pparc.org.