

The Pikes Peak Chapter Helps the Community Prepare For and Respond To Emergencies

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Friday, September 12, 2005— Every day....a house burns down and the family receives Red Cross assistance....a military family has a medical emergency and the Red Cross sends a message to the deployed soldier...a child is taking Red Cross swim lessons...a mother is taking a Red Cross First Aid course....a family is learning to prepare for an unexpected disaster using Red Cross materials...a business is getting crucial Red Cross CPR training. Disasters like Hurricane Katrina give a lot of visibility to the vital services provided by the American Red Cross. But lifesaving and life helping actions take place every day in every community...and YOUR Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross is there...just like it has been for the past 90 years to provide you and your families' emergency services and programs.

The Pikes Peak Chapter history is one of dedication and service by thousands of volunteers that really care about the community. The core programs the Red Cross provides today were born from disasters, wars, tragedy and community need. Your Red Cross is there...and we need your support and donationsbecause Help Can't Wait.

ARMED FORCES EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Thousands of U.S. military serve throughout the United States and overseas. Many are located in combat areas enduring hardship conditions. The American Red Cross provides Emergency Communications – through a sophisticated network of communications from chapters and stations to the military - for servicemen and women and their family's worldwide, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The program started when Clara Barton and a small band of women volunteers wrote letters home for the wounded soldiers of both sides during the Civil War.

More than 1,500,000 emails and telephone calls alone have been sent on behalf of families each year since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Red Cross communicates with the family or service member, verifies the emergency and sends the message to the Red Cross staff "on the ground". Four Red Cross mobile staff stationed at Ft. Carson – all women – recently returned from deployments with the military "on the ground" in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait.

They helped in the delivery of those million messages concerning family deaths, illnesses, injuries, and joyous births.... all in a days work for the Red Cross.

DISASTER SERVICES:

The largest mobilization and disaster relief efforts ever taken by the American Red Cross are currently taking place in aiding the people affected by the recent landfall of Hurricane Katrina. All Red Cross Chapters respond. They send trained volunteers, assist those trying to locate loved ones affected by the disaster, raise awareness and provide updated information to the community on relief efforts and seek donations for not only the relief but continued disaster relief on the home front.

As of September 12, 2005 the American Red Cross has provided shelter to more than 207,000 people and served over 7.6 Million meals for this enormous disaster relief operation that we anticipate will be required for several months. The Pikes Peak Chapter has sent 5 local volunteers to Gulf Coast shelters, is training hundreds more, and has helped over 300 evacuated families who have fled to the Colorado Springs area. From single family fires to wild fires, blizzards to chemical spills – the Pikes Peak Chapter prepares for and responds to these and other disasters.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION:

How do you purify water? What is the difference between a Tornado Watch and Warning? How do you know if your dog is suffering from heat exhaustion? What is an AED and how is it used to help a person with cardiac arrest? These are some of the questions a person learns about when they take a Red Cross course. The Red Cross has long been known for excellent courses in First Aid, CPR, Babysitting, Swimming and Lifeguarding. Pet First Aid, Community Disaster Preparedness, and the new Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Course are all available through the Pikes Peak Chapter. The Chapter offers thousands of courses each year. Last year more than 18,000 adults, teenagers and children in the Pikes Peak region learned how to prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

The Pikes Peak Chapter is here to support you, your family and the community. If you would like more information please call (719) 632-3563.