



# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## LOCAL RED CROSS RESPONDS TO EIGHTH FIRE DISASTER OF 2007

**Colorado Springs, CO** – On Friday, February 2nd, The American Red Cross Pikes Peak Chapter responded to a home fire on Peterson Road in Colorado Springs. This fire marks the eighth local disaster in our area, including the Castle West Apartments fire, since the start of the new year. All have been home fires.

The Chapter dispatched a volunteer Disaster Action Team (DAT) to care for the people displaced by this disaster and to provide emergency assistance. Caseworkers from the Red Cross worked with the family to discuss and identify immediate needs resulting from the fire. Typically, basic human needs such as a safe place to stay, food, clothes, winter coats, necessary medications, and mental health counseling are addressed first.

Since the start of Home Fires Season this Fall, the Pikes Peak Chapter has responded to one of the most active local disaster trends in our history. In the last 7 months there have been 34 local disasters including 9 multi-family fires. Over 500 men, women, and children have been affected by these disasters.

The Red Cross encourages people to be aware of, and safeguard against, these events in their homes by considering the following:

### 92% of All Disasters are Home Fires

**Preparedness is your best defense against deadly fires.  
Use these checklists to safeguard your home and family.**

To prevent fires before they start:

- Never leave burning candles or fireplaces unattended
- Keep fuel (paper, clothing, bedding) at least three feet away from heat sources
- Allow fireplace ashes to cool outside in a covered metal container, more than 10 feet from the house/deck, for a week before disposing in the trash.

To stay safe from fires:

- Create a home fire escape plan
- Practice your plan at least twice a year
- Install smoke alarms and escape ladders
- Replace smoke alarm batteries at least once a year
- Purchase and learn how to use fire extinguishers safely

Visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call 632-3563 today to learn more.

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. Contributions to the American Red Cross may be sent to American Red Cross Pikes Peak Chapter, 1040 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80906, or made online at [www.pparc.org](http://www.pparc.org).

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**Pikes Peak region...meet YOUR Red Cross**