

DISASTER SERVICES BULLETIN

Issue Number 160

Capital Area Chapter

American Red Cross September / October 2004

Disaster Services Offices

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Training Schedule:

For the location and to register, please call the Disaster Services Voice Mail.

November 3 / 6:00PM / [Mass Care: An Overview](#) / Tallahassee

November 6 / 9:00AM / [Disaster Health Services Simulation](#) / Tallahassee

November 6 / 9:00AM / [Public Affairs I](#) / Tallahassee

November 10 / 6:00PM / [Shelter Operations](#) / Tallahassee

November 13 / 9:00AM / [Community Emergency Response Team](#) / Tallahassee (Part 1)

November 13 / 9:00AM / [Records And Reports I](#) / Tallahassee

November 17 / 6:00PM / [Logistics: An Overview](#) / Tallahassee

November 18 / 6:00PM / [Damage Assessment I](#) / Tallahassee

November 20 / 9:00AM / [Community Emergency Response Team](#) / Tallahassee (Part 2)

November 20 / 9:00AM / [Family Services: Providing Emergency Assistance](#) / Tallahassee

If you are a State of Florida, Leon County, or City of Tallahassee employee, you can receive 15 days of paid disaster leave to volunteer for the Red Cross in time of a disaster.

Kissed by Many

The Tallahassee area lucked out on August 12 as Tropical Storm [Bonnie](#) made landfall in Wakulla County but did no damage.

Then there was [Charley](#) on August 13, [Frances](#) on September 5, [Ivan](#) on September 16 and [Jeanne](#) on September 25.

We were involved in all four of the hurricanes in one way or the other. At least they kept us busy.

The following is an overview of the activities undertaken by the Capital Area Chapter.

The Disaster Services Office opened and managed 36 shelters within our eight counties that housed 3,972 evacuees.

We served 53,417 meals and snacks in support of sheltering operations and mobile and fixed feeding activities.

912 Disaster Services Volunteers logged in 39,672 hours of service in areas such as shelter management, family services, nursing services, logistics, communications and damage assessment.

The chapter's Emergency Operation Center in Tallahassee was activated and staffed with Disaster Service Volunteers 24 hours a day for 14 days to support the needs of North Floridians.

107 Disaster Services Volunteers were assigned beyond the chapter's jurisdiction to help with response and recovery efforts associated with Hurricanes [Charley](#), [Frances](#), [Ivan](#) and [Jeanne](#).

In addition to our immediate response activities, we staged, stocked, and supported 87 ERVs from throughout the United States that were responding to Central and Southwest Florida to assist in the response and recovery activities after Hurricane Charley.

We also staged, stocked, and supported 97 ERVs that were assigned to the response and recovery activities after Hurricane Ivan.

The Capital Area Chapter's [Mobile Kitchen](#) (MoKi) was first deployed to Kissimmee in Osceola County for [Hurricane Charley](#). While there, our Disaster Services Volunteers prepared and served 69,219 hot meals. After several weeks in Kissimmee, the MoKi was sent to Pensacola in Escambia County for two weeks to support feeding operations for [Hurricane Ivan](#).

Annual Cookout

The annual End of the Hurricane Season Cookout is Scheduled for **December 4**, at 5:00PM at the Chapter House. With the recent season of storms, there will be a lot to celebrate as the 2004 Hurricane Season comes to a close.

So mark your calendar and plan to bring your family to the **2004 End of Hurricane Season Cookout**.

To help us in our planning, please call the Disaster Service's Voice Mail to let us know you are coming for this special evening of fellowship.

Blanket Days Are Here

The Disaster Services Office has once again partnered with the North Florida Area Agency on Aging to conduct a campaign to collect [blankets](#) for the next two months.

We will be collecting new twin-sized [blankets](#) to be used during disasters and to be given to the area's needy senior citizens.

Please purchase one [blanket](#) or more and bring to the Chapter House for distribution to senior citizens and to victims of home fires.

Amateur Radio Training

During August and September we partnered with the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society and facilitated the Amateur Radio Technicians Licensing course.

There were 46 individuals that participated in the six (6) evenings of training.

DPARCs Needed

The Disaster Services Office is now taking applications for the 2005 [Domestic Preparedness and Response Corps](#) (DPARC). Members of this AmeriCorps program earn almost \$10,000 in a living stipend as well as college credits.

If you are interested or know anybody who may be interested, please call the Disaster Services Office in Tallahassee at 878-6080 for an [application](#).

Become A Disaster Resistant Neighborhood today!

Comfort Kits Needed

During the recent wrath of storms, the Disaster Services Office used 1,307 of its [Comfort Kits](#). With cold weather approaching it is imperative that we have enough [Comfort Kits](#) for our Disaster Action Teams (DATs) to provide to the victims of home fires or other disasters.

If your church, office, or organization is interested in making [Comfort Kits](#) for these victims, please call the Disaster Services Office for more information.

Girl Scouts Help

A special thanks goes to the members Girl Scout Troop # 184 for providing the Disaster Services Office with 50 [Comfort Kits](#) to start off the new season of need.

Partners in Disaster

During the recent hurricane recovery efforts, a number of our disaster [partners](#) came to the forefront to work with the Disaster Services Office in helping individuals and families living in the Capital Area, These partners are:

- 211 Big Bend
- Big Bend Disaster Animal Response Team
- Second Harvest of the Big Bend
- Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society
- Florida Baptist Association
- Volunteer Leon
- FSU Center for Civic Education and Service
- Woodmen of the World Lodge 2

ERV Love's Parades

On October 23 Royce Ratliff drove ERV # 1074 in the Forest Festival Parade in Perry.

Training Blitz

On September 10, 11 and 12, the Disaster Services Office facilitated the Fall Disaster Services Training Blitz. During the three days of training, 54 individuals participated in the five basic Disaster Services courses.

New Hotline

The Disaster Services Office has established a new Disaster Volunteer Information Hotline. The purpose of the hotline is to provide up-to-date disaster response information to Disaster Services Volunteers and will be activated each time Disaster Services Volunteers are needed for a Disaster Relief Operation. The phone number for the hotline in Tallahassee is 850/894-6735.

Please make note of the hotline phone number for future reference.

CERT Training

The next offering of the [Community Emergency Response Team](#) (CERT) training will be November 13 and 20 at 9:00AM at the Chapter House in Tallahassee. Please call the Disaster Services Voice Mail to register for this training.

North Florida Fair

The fair is coming to Tallahassee on November 4 through 14 and for the ninth year the Disaster Services Office will there.

If you would like to help staff the Disaster Resistant Neighborhood booth at the fair please call the Disaster Services Office for additional information.

Have A Safe

Halloween

Disaster Action Teams

With cold weather on the way the Disaster Services Office will be responding to an increasing number of [Home Fires](#) during the next four months.

To respond to these disasters the Disaster Services Office counts on a network of 29 Disaster Action Teams (DAT) made up of Disaster Services Volunteers just like yourself. In an ongoing effort to support the man-power needs of these teams the Disaster Services Office is looking for new team members.

If you are interested in joining a DAT please call the Disaster Services Office on Wednesday's and ask for Nancy Cohn. Nancy is the Disaster Services Associate that coordinates all of the Disaster Action Teams.

3000 Series

Many of you have asked for copies of portions of the [Disaster Services Program 3000 Series](#). In an effort to save on harvesting trees and providing lots of paper copies of these documents to Disaster Services Volunteers we have placed all of the 3000 Series on the [Disaster Services Up-Date](#) portion of our web site.

Now you can download the portion of the 3000 Series that you need and save a tree.

DRB

Is your workplace ready for the next disaster? If not the Disaster Services Office has developed a simple [Disaster Resistant Business](#) tool to help you determine the disaster threats your workplace faces. You can learn more by visiting the [Disaster Resistant Business](#) portion of our web site.

2004 GFTR

The 2004 [Great Fire Truck Roundup](#) was held in Tallahassee on September 9.

Fire Trucks and Volunteer Firefighters from throughout Leon County along with the Fire / Weather House and Disaster Services Volunteers spent the day educating area youth and their parents on the need to be prepared for this year's home fire season.

Disaster Leave Law

During the recent "Season of Storms" many questions were generated about the State of Florida [Disaster Leave Law](#). In short Florida's Disaster Leave Law provides 15 days of paid Disaster Leave during a 12 month cycle for any career service employee who has taken American Red Cross Disaster Services training.

The City of Tallahassee and Leon County have very similar ordinances for their employees.

Shelter Trailer

[Shelter Trailer](#) # 12 has just come on-line. This new trailer has been designated to support the Regional Special Needs Shelter which is setup at Kate Sullivan Elementary School in Tallahassee.

In addition to the usual shelter supplies, this trailer contains wheelchairs and other equipment that can be used to support the needs of evacuees staying at the Regional Special Needs Shelter.

THANK YOU

As the chapter's Disaster Dude I would like to say THANKS to all of you for helping during the recent "Season of Storms". Without you our response would not have happened.

Chris Floyd