

**STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
ASHVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
AND THE
CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Statement of Understanding is to establish a broad framework for cooperation between the Ashville Volunteer Fire Department and the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross in planning and preparing for, responding to, recovering from and mitigating disasters. This agreement sets forth a broad framework for cooperation between the two organizations in rendering assistance and service to victims of disasters in the area covered by the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross.

DEFINITION OF A DISASTER

A disaster is an occurrence such as hurricane, tornado, flood, tidal wave, drought, residential or commercial fire, wildlands fire, explosion, building collapse, hazardous materials incident, terrorism or tragic event that causes human suffering or creates human needs that victims cannot alleviate without emergency assistance.

DISASTER RELIEF

Disaster relief refers to emergency assistance to persons who are deprived of the essential life needs because of a disaster. The purpose of providing such relief is to assist these persons with the basic needs of life until they begin their recovery process.

TYPES OF DISASTER RELIEF

The type of services that the Capital Area Chapter will provide to disaster victims is:

- Mass Care (Sheltering)
- Mass Care (Feeding)
- Emergency Family Services
- Disaster Family Well Being
- Disaster Health (Nursing) Services
- Disaster Mental Health Services
- Damage Assessment

METHODS OF COOPERATION

Cooperation and coordination between the two entities of this Statement of Understanding in providing disaster awareness education and preparedness programs are agreed to as follows:

Educational activities relating to fire safety:

The Ashville Volunteer Fire Department and the Capital Area Chapter will work jointly to provide fire safety education to children in Grades Kindergarten through Four.

The Ashville Volunteer Fire Department, in consultation with the Capital Area Chapter, will schedule fire safety training classes. The Capital Area Chapter will provide the Fire House or Fire/Weather House on-site with two (2) fire safety instructors.

The Capital Area Chapter will provide fire safety information packets to Ashville Volunteer Fire Department to be distributed during the fire safety training classes.

Ashville Volunteer Fire Department will promote the partnership with the Capital Area Chapter in any advertising or media coverage related to fire safety training under this joint arrangement.

Educational activities relating to residents and neighborhoods:

The Capital Area Chapter will be the lead entity in the partnership with the Ashville Volunteer Fire Department in introducing the American Red Cross Disaster Resistant Neighborhood and the Community Emergency Response Team Programs to residents in the community. Ashville Volunteer Fire Department will participate in scheduled presentations to provide fire safety information to residents, upon request.

Emergency assistance to firefighters and other emergency workers:

The Capital Area Chapter will provide Mass Care (feeding) support to firefighters and other emergency workers during commercial fire or other emergency situation. When the emergency situation is expected to have a duration in excess of two (2) hours, where beverage and food are not easily accessible, Ashville Volunteer Fire Department or a representative will contact the Capital Area Chapter to request Mass Care (feeding) support. The request for Mass Care (feeding) support should be made as soon as the duration of an emergency situation can be reasonably predicted.

Emergency assistance to victims of single-family or multi-family residential fires:

The Capital Area Chapter can provide assistance to purchase food and clothing for victims of single-family or multi-family residential fires. Ashville Volunteer Fire Department should inquire if the victim(s) if need assistance from the American Red Cross. If assistance is needed, a representative of the Ashville Volunteer Fire Department will contact the Capital Area Chapter to dispatch a Disaster Action Team.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING MODIFICATION

This Statement of Understanding can be modified at any time that both entities agree on the modifications and such modifications are reduced to writing and made an addendum to this statement.

Capital Area Chapter

Ashville Volunteer Fire Department

Karen Hagan
Executive Director

Chief

Date

Date

Chris Floyd
Director, Emergency Services

Date