

## American Red Cross

### General Information

#### **Mission:**

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

The Red Cross is a volunteer-run organization. Although the Red Cross does have paid employees, the core of its work is made possible by volunteers. More than a million Red Cross volunteers respond to more than 70,000 disasters each year.

Although the American Red Cross is not a government agency, the Red Cross was chartered by Congress in 1905 to "carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same."

#### **Services**

For nearly 125 years, Americans have relied on the American Red Cross for its expertise in disaster relief.

The American Red Cross responds to a disaster every eight minutes, around the clock, 365 days a year. By being first on the scene 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for all types of disasters, the American Red Cross is there helping people impacted by disasters, with food, clothing, shelter and health services. This allows firefighters, police and other first responders to better focus on what they do best.

Although fire is the most frequent disaster, trained Red Cross volunteers respond immediately to explosions, storms, wildfires, tornadoes, floods and a variety of other disasters.



[ColoradoRedCross.org](http://ColoradoRedCross.org)

All Red Cross disaster assistance is free. The Red Cross relies on voluntary gifts of time and money to provide disaster relief. To help disaster victims, contributions can be made to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund by calling 1-800-HELP NOW or donating online at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

Besides responding to disaster, the American Red Cross provides a number of other vital services including:

- CPR, first aid, and babysitter training
- Emergency military communications between soldiers and their families
- Reuniting families torn apart by war, famine, or strife
- Driving thousands of elderly, sick, and disabled patients to their doctor appointments
- The Red Cross also begins saving lives long before disaster strikes by helping individuals and whole communities learn to prepare for disasters and take steps to minimize their destructive potential.

#### **CPR, First Aid, and Health & Safety:**

Whether it's training a babysitter in CPR or providing transportation for the chronically ill, the American Red Cross helps save lives each and every day. Trainings include:

- First Aid and CPR
- Water Safety
- Care-giving
- Pet CPR
- Provide transportation for elderly, chronically ill, and disabled people a year, driving over 352,000 miles a year.

#### **Military Services (Service to the Armed Forces Program)**

The American Red Cross provides the emergency communication link between military personnel and civilians serving abroad and their families back home. When there is a birth, death, or financial hardship in the family, the Red Cross provides this vital link. These communications are delivered around-the-clock, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Both active duty and community-based military can count on the Red Cross to provide emergency communications that link them with their families back home, access to



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financial assistance and counseling. Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services personnel work in nearly 900 chapters in the United States, on 79 military installations around the world and with our troops in Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq.

### **International Services**

When war or natural disasters separate families, the Red Cross is often the link that reunites them. We work to find loved ones of refugees, disaster victims and Holocaust survivors.

### **Transportation Services**

Every week, men and women from across the Denver Metropolitan area volunteer to drive the elderly and disabled to doctor visits, medical procedures, chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and other vital appointments. This service enables our very appreciative clients to maintain an independence and quality of life not possible if they had to depend on family and friends for all their driving needs. In 2007 and 2008, local volunteers drove almost 4000 clients on 21,000 trips totally over 306,000 miles.