



**American
Red Cross**

Connecticut Region

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News Release
NEWS RELEASE

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American Red Cross is Readying People and Supplies for Irene's Landfall

Shelters will be Supported if Needed; Tips Offered for Preparations and Sheltering at Home

FARMINGTON, CONN., August 26, 2011 – The American Red Cross is moving people and resources into place in locations throughout Connecticut to support its response to Hurricane Irene.

“We have hundreds of volunteers who are helping to ready our supplies, to organize shelter plans with towns throughout the State and to coordinate our activities with State emergency officials,” said American Red Cross spokesperson Paul Shipman. “We are getting ready for Irene’s impact and we urge the people of Connecticut to do the same.”

Shipman said that Red Cross emergency response vehicles are staging to deliver supplies and food for evacuation shelters. He said residents should stay tuned to news for information about the storm and about instructions they may need to follow for public safety.

“Keep up with news and know what is happening in your area. If you have questions about shelter locations or emergency evacuation routes in your community, your city’s or town’s emergency management office can provide that information.”

Shipman said that people should have basic supplies at home to last for three days:

- First Aid kit
- Non-perishable food (such as canned vegetables and fruit, energy bars, canned tuna)
- Water for drinking and preparing food (one gallon per person per day)
- Flashlight, radio and batteries

Shipman said these basics will help people who need to shelter-in-place for a period of time during and after the storm. He also said that people who might need to evacuate should consider bringing some basic supplies with them to a shelter.

“Have a bag ready with a few things that could make your stay at a shelter more comfortable and less stressful,” Shipman said. He recommended bringing a pillow and blanket or sleeping bag for each person coming to a shelter. “Shelters may offer a cot or mat, but a touch of home will make a big difference in your comfort level.”

Shipman also said that people evacuating to a shelter need to bring any medications they are taking. “If you have prescriptions, be sure to bring those medicines with you; it could be nearly impossible for you to replace them at the height of the storm.”

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Red Cross Readies for Irene, Offers Advice on Preparations for Residents – Page 2

Also helpful to have in a shelter setting would be some items to help you pass the time. “Bring a book to read. Consider a deck of cards or a favorite board game for your family. Consider including a stuffed animal for your child, which could be a real comfort.”

Shipman said information is vital as the storm approaches. News reports and local officials are good sources of information on shelter locations. Local emergency management offices can provide information about particular hazards typical in your area. 211 Info Line can also provide information about resources in your area.

“The time to get ready and get informed is now,” Shipman said. “You don’t want to be out in the storm or looking for shelter options at the last minute.”

For more information and readiness tips, visit www.ctredcross.org.

American Red Cross disaster preparedness starts long before a hurricane makes landfall, beginning with keeping supplies and equipment on stand-by all year to help people in need. On average, the Red Cross spends about \$450 million on disaster relief every year. If someone would like to support Red Cross disaster efforts, they can make a donation to American Red Cross Disaster Relief by visiting www.redcross.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS, texting the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation, or sending contributions to their local Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

Help people affected by disasters like hurricanes or flooding by donating to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve victims of other disasters. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for disasters and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance to victims of all disasters. Call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting redcross.org.

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