



Disaster Update

Wednesday, September 30, 10 a.m.

Red Cross Helping Families Devastated by Georgia Floods

Red Cross volunteers continue to provide stability and hope for families in this time of chaos. Through mobile outreach into flood-affected areas, **caseworkers are connecting one-on-one with people in need and providing financial assistance for food, clothing, shelter, and health-related concerns. Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles are providing mobile feeding and distributing clean-up supplies** in flood-ravaged neighborhoods. Since flooding began, more than 700 Red Cross volunteers have been working to support the disaster-caused needs of families.



To date, the Red Cross has sheltered nearly 500 people (2,011 overnight stays), served 22,165 meals and 19,479 snacks, and distributed 3,723 clean-up and comfort kits.

Preliminary damage assessment reports indicate that 2,826 homes (757 destroyed; 760 with major damage) have been affected by flooding in 20 counties.

Volunteers are also helping with emergency medical needs and providing emotional support and counseling. The Red Cross is working with local partners to connect those in need with available community resources.



People in need of Red Cross assistance should call our Call Center at 404-870-4440, open from 8:15 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Red Cross Opens Shelter in Gwinnett County

The Red Cross opened seven shelters within 24 hours of the flooding. Three shelters remain open, with a total population of approximately 180 people:

Cobb County
Cobb Civic Center
548 South Marietta Parkway
Marietta, GA 30060

Cherokee County
Recreation & Parks Agency
(South Annex)
7545 Main Street Bldg 200
Woodstock, GA 30188

Gwinnett County
Zoar United Methodist
3895 Zoar Church Rd.
Snellville, GA 30039

Distribution Centers Offer Clean-Up Supplies, Bottled Water

Distribution Centers for clean-up items, bottled water, and toiletry items have been set up in the hard-hit communities of Marietta, Powder Springs, and Austell. They are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Red

Cross has distributed more than 44,000 bulk items. Clean-up supplies include push brooms, mops, buckets, disinfectants, liquid cleaners, bleach, gloves, and garbage bags. Bottled water and toiletry items are also being distributed. There are four locations:

Lawrenceville Fire Dept., Station 20
1801 Cruse Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Lawrenceville Fire Dept., Station 25
3575 Lawrenceville Highway
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Powder Springs Police Dept.
4483 Pineview Drive
Powder Springs, GA 30127

Westridge Church
3522 Hiram-Acworth Highway
Dallas, GA 30157

Austell Shopping Center
5875 Love Street
Austell, GA 30168

17 Counties Eligible for FEMA Assistance

President Obama issued a federal disaster declaration for 17 counties: Bartow, Carroll, Catoosa, Cobb, Chattooga, Cherokee, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton, Gwinnett, Heard, Newton, Paulding, Rockdale, Stephens, and Walker counties.

The number to call for FEMA assistance is 1-800-621-3362. Red Cross mental health counselors and volunteers are stationed at the Disaster Recovery Centers in Cobb, DeKalb, and Douglasville today, and will expand their presence to other locations later this week.

The Red Cross is also helping families in Alabama, Tennessee, and North Carolina, who were forced to evacuate their homes. In Alabama, there was sporadic flooding in Hale, Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Shelby, and Jefferson counties; in North Carolina, there was flooding in Transylvania County; and in Tennessee, residents in Walker and Hamilton counties were impacted by flood waters.

Vice President Biden: “Red Cross doing God’s Work”

Vice President Joe Biden was in Georgia last Friday to tour the flood damage. After visiting the Red Cross shelter in Cobb County, he exclaimed, “The Red Cross is doing God’s work.”



Flood Waters Turn Deadly

Media reports indicate that 10 people have died as a result of the floods, including a toddler ripped from his mother's arms as their mobile home was swept into a creek. A Lawrenceville woman was driving when her van was swept into a creek. A rescue team deployed an inflatable boat and firefighters on foot also used a rope system to navigate the rising tide as they waded in to search for the woman. She was found deceased inside the van. Carroll County rescuers found "people hanging from trees, hanging onto their babies."

Disasters Change Lives, You Can Too: Here's How to Help

Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters in terms of human hardship and economic loss; your support will help ensure that we can be there for the families who have been devastated by this

disaster. All Red Cross disaster relief is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money to the Disaster Relief Fund. The Disaster Relief Fund enables the Red Cross to provide critical services to those affected by disasters such as the current floods.

- **Donate money.** You can help people affected by disasters like the current floods 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. Visit www.redcross.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. 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.
- **Donate blood.** The need for blood is constant and the Southern Blood Services Region is committed to continuing to provide blood and blood products to those in need at all times. Visit www.givelife.org or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to find a drive near you.
- **Donate your time.** Sign up as a Red Cross volunteer. Visit www.redcross.org.

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Your gift enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling, and other assistance to victims of all disasters. Your gift gives the Red Cross the capacity to prepare communities for disasters and to be among the first on the scene after a disaster strikes.

For continuous updates on the Red Cross response, visit <http://newsroom.redcross.org>.