



American Red Cross of NWFL  
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[www.yourredcross.org](http://www.yourredcross.org)

## News Release NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR MEDIA ONLY**

### **American Red Cross Reaches Out to States Affected by Weekend Tornadoes**

*Recent tornado activity leaves widespread destruction.*

**Pensacola, April 30, 2010** – The American Red Cross is providing shelter, food, and comfort to people across the South as they deal with the aftermath of the deadly tornadoes that swept through the area over the weekend. **YOUR RED CROSS (American Red Cross of Northwest Florida) has an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV)** and teams on the ground in Mississippi and Alabama. You can volunteer with **YOUR RED CROSS** by visiting [www.yourredcross.org](http://www.yourredcross.org)

#### **Mississippi**

##### **Situation:**

- Governor has declared a State of Emergency for 17 counties, and activated the National Guard.
- FEMA teams are on the ground as well.
- 10 confirmed fatalities, 49 injuries (Source: FEMA)

##### **Red Cross Response:**

- Last night 1 shelter was open with 5 overnight stays. In total, we opened 3 shelters, with a total population of 55 overnight stays.
- We are doing mobile feeding in 9 emergency response vehicles (ERVs) in Warren, Yazoo, Holmes, Attala, Choctaw counties. Southern Baptist Convention has one kitchen open, which can serve up to 5,000 meals a day if needed.
- More than 16,000 meals and snacks have been served so far, from the mobile feeding units, as well as 1 fixed location.
- Trained Red Cross Disaster volunteers have conducted preliminary disaster assessments. At this point we estimate that more than 500 homes have been destroyed or suffered major damage, with an additional nearly 700 homes that were also impacted.
- We will be providing financial assistance as part of our client casework process.
- More than 1,000 bulk distribution items (like rakes, work gloves, trash bags, comfort kits and tarps) have been distributed.
- Red Cross Volunteer mental health workers are also on site in Yazoo City.
- There are more than 135 trained Red Cross disaster workers on site.

#### **Alabama**

##### **Situation:**

- Tornadoes touch downs in DeKalb and Marshall Counties.
- In DeKalb County an entire trailer park in Mentone is destroyed.
- There are 2 confirmed fatalities, and 46 injuries reported (Source: FEMA)

##### **Red Cross Response:**

- 2 Red Cross shelters open last night with 1 overnight stay. In total we have opened 3 shelters, with a total overnight stays population of 79.
- 7 emergency response vehicles (ERVs) have been deployed and are doing mobile feeding in 3 counties, more than 8,500 meals and snacks have been served so far.

- Trained Red Cross Disaster volunteers have conducted preliminary disaster assessments. At this point we estimate that more than 300 homes have been destroyed or suffered major damage, with an additional more than 300 homes that were also impacted.
- We will be providing financial assistance as part of our client casework process.
- 60 comfort kits (which contain items like toothpaste, a toothbrush, and other person hygiene items) have been distributed.
- We anticipate providing over 300 clean-up kits (which contain items like work gloves, trash bags, mops and bleach)
- There are 87 trained Red Cross disaster workers on site.

**Editorial note: Call (202) 303-5551 to speak with an American Red Cross spokesperson.**

For more information on how to be prepared for tornadoes, visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Help people affected by disasters like these tornadoes 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](http://redcross.org).

**About the American Red Cross:**

*The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.*