



Northern Vermont Chapter

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NEWS RELEASE

Northern Vermont Red Cross Volunteers Support Fire Victims at Home As Volunteer Colleagues Remain Active in Gulf Hurricane Recovery Efforts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

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Burlington Vermont – Even as additional volunteer Red Cross personnel readied for deployment to the Hurricane ravaged Gulf region, Northern Vermont Chapter Disaster Action Team members responded to meet the needs created when 2 houses burned in North Troy. These responses highlight the American Red Cross’ need to continue to be prepared to respond to emergencies here at home as we continue monitoring and supporting disaster events throughout the country.

On Sunday and Monday, four chapter volunteers readied for deployment to join four volunteers the chapter already has on the scene in the gulf region supporting the massive relief effort that is ongoing there. “One of the volunteers is managing a kitchen serving thousand of residents in Texas affected by hurricane, two others are staffing an emergency response vehicle dispatched as Hurricane Gustav was coming ashore and the rest of the deployed personnel are supporting shelter operations across the entire gulf region.” said Senior Director Timothy Stetson. Even as thousands need support as the initial impacts of hurricane Ike are just being coming clear, Red Cross volunteers are supporting the many people who still need support as they clean up after Hurricane Gustav.

At the same time, upon being notified mid-day on Sunday, the Orleans County Disaster Action Team responded immediately to provide emergency assistance to the family affected by a single family home fire and to support the rehabilitation needs of firefighters and other emergency workers on the scene. As the team was wrapping up from this response they were notified of a second fire in the same community, this time, a vacant house. The team immediately redeployed to the new incident location to continue providing mass care Rehabilitation support to the already tired emergency responders who supported both fire scenes.

The Red Cross is launching an aggressive national fundraising campaign to raise \$100 million to immediately replenish our national Disaster Relief Fund to help victims of recent disasters to meet their immediate needs for food, shelter, counseling and other critical services. The perception is that the Red Cross “dodged a bullet” after Hurricane Gustav. **The reality is that Gustav caused a silent crisis:** we are still serving more than 100,000 meals a day to those who returned to find their homes damaged or without power. At the peak of our operation, we were serving 400,000 meals a day and sheltering 60,000 people in ten states. We are continuing to give critically-needed aid to the victims of the 2008 storms and hurricanes: Dolly, Ernesto, Fay, Gustav, Hanna and now, Ike.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of thousands of disasters across the country each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to victims of disaster. The American Red Cross honors donor intent. If you wish to designate your donation to a specific disaster, please do so at the time of your donation. Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter.

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