The Role of the Red Cross in Emergency Management

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Mission of the American Red Cross

‘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 disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.’
Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement

Humanity
Impartiality
Neutrality
Independence
Voluntary Service
Unity
Universality
# Summary of Organizational Components

Programs and services are integrated at the Local, State, Regional and National levels and are provided through:

- **Manpower** – American Red Cross has over 1 Million Volunteers & 35,000 Paid Staff
- **Chapters** - 775 Local
- **Armed Forces Emergency Services Units** - 100
- **Blood Regions** - 35
- **Service Areas** - 8
- **Partnerships** – with Government and other Non-Governmental Organizations
Primary Lines of Service

- Biomedical Services
- Armed Forces Emergency Services
- Health & Safety Services
- International Services
- Disaster Services
The American Red Cross responds to over 70,000 disasters annually (which range in type and complexity to include):

- **Fires** - From Single Family Homes to large Apartment Complexes
- **Natural Disasters** – Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Floods, and Severe Weather
- **Other Man-made Incidents** - Terrorist Events, Aircraft Accidents, etc.
It all starts with a **Local Chapter!**

Must be able to respond to any disaster

**24/7/365**

*Within a 2 hour time frame*
• Disaster Operations Center (DOC)
• Disaster Services Human Resources (DSHR) System with ~56,000 members
• Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) - 300
• Warehouses - 28 (1.2 Million Sq Ft)
• Emergency Communication Response Vehicle (ECRV) - 9
• Critical Response Team (CRT)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disaster Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Welfare Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Red Cross Disaster Assistance is Free!
Service Area Boundaries and Headquarters Locations

1. Sacramento, CA
2. Las Vegas, NV
3. Des Moines, IA
4. Birmingham, AL
5. Cincinnati, OH
6. Worcester, MA
7. Raleigh, NC
8. Houston, TX

AK
HI and Pacific Islands
Puerto Rico and Caribbean
Red Cross Response Concept of Operations

Key
ARC – American Red Cross
BSOC – Biomedical Services Ops Center
CDC – Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA
DHS – Department of Homeland Security
DOC – Disaster Operations Center
DRO – Disaster Relief Operation
EOC – Emergency Operations Center
ERT-A – Emergency Response Team – Advance (FEMA)
HHS – Department of Health & Human Services
HSC – Homeland Security Council at the White House; no ARC liaison here
HSOC – Homeland Security Ops Center (DHS); ARC liaison upon request
IIMG – Interagency Incident Management Group (DHS)
IMPT – Incident Management Planning Team (DHS)
JFO – Joint Field Office (FEMA)
JOC – Joint Operations Center (FBI lead); no ARC liaison here
NRCC – National Response Coordination Center (FEMA)
NOC – National Operations Center
PFO – Principal Federal Official (DHS); occasional ARC liaison here
RNAT – Rapid Needs Assessment Team (FEMA)
RRCC – Regional Response Coordination Center (FEMA)
SA – Service Area

Note – Solid line indicates automatic deployment of a Red Cross representative to the government entity; dotted line indicates deployment if requested (Nov 2006)
Primary Agency Designation:

- ESF #6 Mass Care, Housing & Human Services

Support Agency Designations:

- ESF #3 Public Works & Engineering
- ESF #5 Emergency Management
- ESF #8 Public Health & Medical Services
- ESF #11 Agriculture & Natural Resources
- ESF #14 Long Term Community Recovery & Mitigation
- ESF #15 External Affairs
Support Annexes Designations:

– Red Cross is listed as a “Cooperating” agency to the following annexes:
  • Financial Management
  • Private Sector Coordination
  • International Coordination
  • Public Affairs
  • Tribal Relations

Incident Annexes Designations:

– Red Cross is listed as a “Cooperating” agency to the following annexes:
  • Biological
  • Catastrophic
  • Nuclear/Radiological
Emergency Support Function ESF #6 – Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services

Primary Agency Designations for ESF #6

Mass Care

American Red Cross is designated as the Primary Agency for the Mass Care portion of ESF #6

Housing and Human Services

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is designated as the Primary Agency for the Housing and Human Services portions of ESF #6
Red Cross Role in National Response Plan – ESF #6

Emergency Support Function ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services

Components of Mass Care

Coordination of Federal Assets to address:

- Sheltering
- Feeding
- Emergency First Aid
- Disaster Welfare Information
- Bulk Distribution of Emergency Relief Items
Voluntary Organization Partners

• **Southern Baptists**
  – Provides support in Feeding Operations through large kitchens

• **The Salvation Army**
  – Provides support in Sheltering and Feeding Operations

• **National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD)**
  – Provides coordination services for Voluntary Organizations involved in Disaster Response
Federal Partners

- **Department of Homeland Security**
  - Work closely with FEMA
  - Member of Incident Management Planning Team (IMPT)
  - Represented in the National Operations Center (NOC)
  - Participate in TOPOFF & other national level exercises

- **Department of Health & Human Services**
  - Office of Preparedness and Response
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Agency for Children and Families (ACF)

- **Department of Defense**
  - Northern Command (NORTHCOM)
For Further Information

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