



**American
Red Cross**

Disaster Update

Friday, October 9, 11 a.m.

Red Cross Continues to Help Families Devastated by Georgia Floods

Red Cross volunteers continue to provide stability and hope for families devastated by the Georgia floods. **More than 20 teams of caseworkers, nurses, and mental health workers are continuing mobile outreach in flood-ravaged neighborhoods. The Red Cross is providing families with financial assistance for food, clothing, shelter, and health-related concerns.** Since flooding began, more than 800 Red Cross volunteers have been working to support the disaster-caused needs of families.

To date, the Red Cross has provided emergency assistance to more than 13,000 people through a variety of services, including financial assistance, sheltering, feeding, distribution of clean-up supplies and personal hygiene kits, and emotional support and counseling.

Within 24 hours of the storms, the Red Cross opened eight shelters, providing a safe haven for nearly 500 people, and it has served more than 44,000 meals.

Damage assessment is complete. 2,862 homes have been affected by flooding in 20 counties (781 destroyed; 765 with major damage).

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.

Shelter Residents Moved to Transitional Shelter

Approximately 25 people are being sheltered at a transitional shelter in Marietta, after the Cobb County shelter was closed on Thursday. Red Cross caseworkers are working with the families to provide them with temporary housing until they can move forward with their recovery plans.

23 Counties Eligible for Individual and/or Public Assistance from FEMA

Carroll, Catoosa, Cobb, Chattooga, Cherokee, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton, Gwinnett, Heard, Newton, Paulding, Rockdale, Stephens, and Walker counties are eligible for individual *and* public assistance.

Bartow and Coweta counties are eligible for individual assistance *only*.

Crawford, Dawson, Dooley, Houston, Peach, and Taylor are eligible for public assistance *only*.

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 due to flooding.

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

Vice President Joe Biden was in Georgia recently 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 Turned Deadly

Media reports indicate that 10 people 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 costly natural disasters in terms of human hardship and economic loss; your support will help ensure that we can be there for the families 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>.