



MORGAN-LAWRENCE COUNTY

March 2008



CHAPTER RESPONDS TO LAWRENCE COUNTY TORNADO

At approximately three in the morning on February 6, Doppler Radar indicated rotation in a line of thunderstorms that passed over Morgan and Lawrence Counties. Spotty reports from law enforcement told of possible funnel clouds, a mobile home in the middle of Modaus Road, and other reports of damage in Lawrence County.

Before dawn broke, we had teams in the field, in contact with Lawrence County and Morgan County EMA, and our full complement of Disaster Action Team members were either in the field or reporting to the chapter. As the day began, we started to get an idea of the damage sustained in the area.

Under the direction of James Tardy, who performed ably after three weeks as Disaster Response Director, our chapter met the needs of the storm victims and also responded to a single family fire a few days after the storm hit.

Whether we were providing food, shelter or financial assistance, our group of dedicated volunteers stepped up to the plate and performed well. We served nearly forty people in over a dozen households, provided significant financial assistance, and offered mental health outreach. When we found relatively few people coming to our Service Center/Shelter at the Moulton Church of Christ, we went to the families, providing outreach for financial assistance and sheltering.

We benefited from strong relationships with all of the agencies involved in the response effort and from having such a strong group of volunteers and dedicated staff. We were truly Red Cross Ready.



Get Prepared for Severe Weather

With the beginning of Spring comes the threat of severe weather and the most active part of tornado season. The Morgan-Lawrence County Chapter of the American Red Cross urges residents in our area to take steps now that can make your family safer when tornadoes threaten.

As with any disaster, preparation can be the difference between life or death. The Red Cross recommends that families prepare for tornadoes by:

Creating and practicing a Home Tornado Plan: Pick an uncluttered place where family members could seek shelter: a basement, a center hallway, a bathroom, or a closet on the lowest floor.

Assembling a Disaster Supplies Kit: Kits should contain the following items:

- First aid kit and essential medications
- Canned food and manual can opener
- At least three gallons of water per person per day
- Protective clothing, bedding, or sleeping bags
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries

- Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn natural gas service back on.)

Heeding Storm Warnings: Listen to your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information.

- A tornado WATCH means a tornado is possible in your area. Listen to local radio and TV stations for further updates. Be alert to changing weather conditions. Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say it sounds like a freight train.
- A tornado WARNING means a tornado has been sighted and may be headed for your area. Go to safety immediately. If you are inside, go to the safe place you picked to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. If you are outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area. If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety.

After the Tornado Passes: Watch out for fallen power lines and stay out of the damaged area. Listen to the radio and TV for information and instructions. Do not use candles at any time.

When a tornado, flood, earthquake, fire, or other emergency happens in our community, you can count on the Morgan-Lawrence County Chapter of the American Red Cross to be there to help you and your family. Your Red Cross is not a government agency and depends on contributions of your time, money, and blood.



MARCH IS RED CROSS MONTH

The American Red Cross performs a critical role in our Nation and world by providing aid and support to people in times of urgent need. Chartered and authorized by Congress and with the support of more than 700 chapters across the country, the Red Cross helps alleviate suffering brought on by disasters; collects and distributes 40 percent of our Nation's blood supply; assists our military and their families; and provides international relief.

Red Cross Month

During World War I, President Woodrow Wilson ordered the American Red Cross to raise funds to support aid to the military and civilians affected by war as mandated by Congress. At that time, the American Red Cross set a goal of \$125 million and in less than six weeks donations totaled nearly \$146 million. This success caused the Red Cross to repeat the March drive during the remaining years of the war and to make it the occasion for annual membership and fundraising efforts every since.

As the honorary chairman of the Red Cross, in 1943 President Roosevelt was the first president to declare March as Red Cross Month. Each year since 1943, the president of the United States proclaims March as Red Cross Month.

March is Red Cross Month gives the Red Cross an opportunity to promote its services and celebrate its successes in serving communities across the country

Disaster Relief

Each year, the American Red Cross responds to an estimated 70,000 disasters, including house and apartment fires, hurricanes, and other natural and human-caused disasters. This year during March is Red Cross Month, chapters across the country will designate a day to honor our dedicated volunteers; our hometown heroes. On Hometown Heroes Day, we will celebrate and acknowledge the contributions of the many heroes for their role in helping to build a better quality of life.

In 2007, the Red Cross helped handle the largest evacuation in California history during the devastating wildfires, by providing more than 30,000 overnight stays in shelters and more than 360,000 meals.

Volunteers and Services to the Armed Forces

More than 580,000 people volunteer for the American Red Cross and volunteers make up 97% of all American Red Cross staff. Visit www.redcross.org for more information on volunteering. For the next 125 years and beyond, the Red Cross will meet the needs of the public by fostering volunteers who are professional, prepared and committed to the tradition of providing supreme service delivery to our communities. Red Cross staff members deploy with our Armed Forces to provide emergency communications and a caring presence to service men and women separated from their families. Almost 40,000 Red Cross volunteers work at more than 100 military sites here and around the world, providing services to 1.4 million active duty personnel and more than 1.2 million members of the National Guard, the Reserves and their families.

Preparedness

The American Red Cross makes every effort to save lives before tragedy strikes, by helping individuals and communities learn to prepare for disaster through training. Nearly 11 million people have enrolled in training courses that range from first aid and CPR, to water safety, and use of automated external defibrillators that can save the life of victims of sudden cardiac arrest.

International Services

The American Red Cross shows the compassion of the American people to victims of disasters and crises worldwide. In 2007, the Red Cross partnered with international Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and responded to 26 disasters across 32 countries. The Red Cross is also helping to ensure a healthier future for millions of children and families worldwide by fighting measles, malaria and HIV/AIDS.

Blood

The American Red Cross is a bridge between more than 4 million generous blood donors and millions of patients who need life-saving blood. The Red Cross collects, processes and distributes blood to more than 3,000 hospitals and transfusion centers around the country. The Red Cross delivers a wide range of high quality blood products and blood donor and patient testing services.



Order Secretary's Gift Bags Today!

Call 256-353-4891 or order online at www.morglawredcross.org

The Morgan-Lawrence Chapter presents "Tea Time" Gift Bags for Secretary's Day (Administrative Professionals Day, April 23, 2008) Birthdays, Mothers' Day, or no occasion at all! Order a gift bag today for \$32.00. (Quantities are limited. MasterCard, American Express or Visa Accepted.) The stylish black and white gift boxes will include a tea mug with two tea bags and your own teaspoon to stir your tea or coffee just right! To avoid those pesky rings on your coffee table, black and white coasters in a coordinating holder will be included. GinnyO's Gourmet Cheese Rings and a gift box of Toffee to Go will satisfy those afternoon snack cravings. More than half of the boxes will contain additional "bonus gifts" from area merchants including Sam, Frank,

and Moore and The Paper Chase! These gift bags are a great way to say "thank you" to any special lady—mother, wife, daughter, teacher, administrative assistant, volunteer or buy one for yourself! They may be

picked up April 22 or 23 at the Decatur Office (431 Holly St. NE) or they can be delivered to your secretary on April 23. Sixteen dollars of every purchase is tax-deductible and supports vital local Red Cross services.



Health and Safety Community Course Schedule

To register for community courses, visit www.morglawredcross.org or call 353-4891. Pre-registration is required.

The Morgan-Lawrence County Chapter of the American Red Cross offers CPR, Automated External Defibrillator (AED), First Aid, and Babysitter's Training on a regular basis. Community courses are held at our Chapter, located at 431 Holly Street in Decatur.

Our Chapter can also arrange for private classes for groups of 6 or more, or train a member of your organization as a Red Cross instructor. Please call Becky at 353-4891 for more information.

Upcoming Community Course Dates and Times

Standard First Aid

(includes both Adult CPR/AED and First Aid certifications)

This course provides hands-on first aid and Adult CPR training and explains the role of AEDs in emergency cardiac care. Participants will learn to recognize and care for injuries or sudden illnesses until advanced medical help can take over. Topics include breathing and cardiac emergencies, basic precautions for preventing disease transmission, and identifying and caring for life-threatening bleeding, sudden illness and injuries. Participants will also learn to use an AED for victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Meets OSHA Guidelines for First Aid.

Course Fee: \$35.00

2008 Course Dates: April 1, April 9, April 29, May 1, May 13, May 20

The Standard First Aid courses are held from 8:30 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. To accommodate those students interested in Adult CPR/AED training only, without the First Aid component, our Chapter can dismiss these students at approximately 12:30 P.M., and the course fee will be \$30.00.

Infant/Child CPR and First Aid

Course participants learn how to prevent, recognize and provide basic care for breathing and cardiac emergencies in infants and children under the age of 12. First aid skills will also be included. You will learn treatment for a variety of injuries such as burns, wounds, head, neck and back injuries, and heat and cold-related emergencies. Participants also learn to manage sudden illnesses, seizure, bites and poisoning.

Course Fee: \$35.00

2008 Course Date and Time: May 6, 8:30 – 4:30

Babysitter's Training

Gain the skills you need to be a great babysitter! As a Red Cross-trained babysitter, you'll gain confidence and valuable employment skills to impress parents.

In this fun, interactive course, you'll learn how to:

- Perform first aid and get professional medical help fast
- Identify common safety hazards and prevent injuries
- Make good, responsible decisions
- Supervise infants through school-age children
- Choose safe and age-appropriate toys and games
- Perform basic care routines like diapering and feeding
- Prepare simple meals and snacks
- Find and interview for babysitting jobs

At your Babysitter's Training class, you'll receive a full-color, illustrated handbook filled with great information and resources to use in the course and on the job.

Course Fee: \$35.00

2008 Course Date and Time: May 29, 10:00 – 3:30

March Disaster Training Opportunities

To register for training, contact James Tardy at 353-4891. Class size is limited.

Thursday, March 27

8:30 a.m. Fulfilling Our Mission

10:00 a.m. Damage Assessment

1:30 p.m. Mass Care Overview

6:00 p.m. Family Service part I

Friday, March 28

8:30 a.m. Fulfilling Our Mission

10:00 a.m. Mass Care Overview

2:00 p.m. Shelter Ops

Saturday, March 29:

8:30 a.m. Fulfilling Our Mission

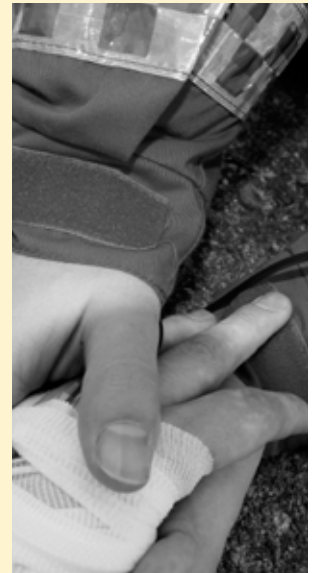
10:00 a.m. Mass Care Overview

1:00 p.m. Shelter Ops

1:00 p.m. Family Service Pt II

- The Intro class is a pre-requisite to being qualified as a disaster volunteer.
- The Fulfilling Our Mission segment is a pre-requisite for all disaster training.
- The Mass Care Overview segment is a pre-requisite for Shelter Training.

Also, please be aware that Intro to Disaster Services, Damage Assessment and Disaster Public Affairs Overview are offered online.



Lawrence County Chicken and Egg Festival Spaghetti Dinner

Sponsored by: American Red Cross, Morgan-Lawrence Chapter

Lawrence County High School Cafeteria
102 College St. Moulton, AL

Friday, April 11, 2008

4:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Tickets \$8.00

(To-Go Plates Available)

Special appearances by:
Miss UNA – Allison Saint
Nugget the Chicken
Scramble the Egg

Tickets can be purchased at the following locations:

Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce
ReMax Valley Pros. –Moulton
Steve's Discount Drugs – Moulton
Too Sisters Too Mothers and Others Gift Shop
American Red Cross – Decatur

All proceeds benefit Morgan-Lawrence Red Cross Chapter
www.morglawredcross.org
256-353-4891



When you help the American Red Cross, you help our community!

Upcoming Community Blood Drives

March

- Mar. 18 Daikin American, Decatur 11:30am – 4:30pm
- Mar. 18 Lakeland Industries, Decatur 9:00am – 3:00pm
- Mar. 29 Wal-Mart, Moulton 11:00am – 4:00pm

April

- Apr. 5 Forrest Chapel United Methodist, Hartselle
- Apr. 8 Daikin America, Decatur
- Apr. 10 Austinville Church of Christ, Decatur
- Apr. 14 Community Action, Decatur
- Apr. 19 Decatur Mall
- Apr. 22 Priceville High School
- Apr. 23 R.A. Hubbard School, Courtland
- Apr. 24 Martin’s Dept. Store, Decatur (NASCAR)



WELCOME HOME

Prepare Your Community

As part of RE/MAX’s commitment to our community, RE/MAX will make a donation to the Morgan-Lawrence County Chapter of the American Red Cross each time a RE/MAX Realtor participates in the WELCOME HOME program. Through this partnership, RE/MAX Realtors will have an opportunity to provide American Red Cross WELCOME HOME safety kits to their clients when they help them buy or sell a home. These financial donations by RE/MAX will help make it possible for the Red Cross to respond in our community the next time an emergency arises.

Prepare Your Home

RE/MAX clients will receive an American Red Cross WELCOME HOME safety kit as a thank you gift for working with participating Realtors. Make this free gift your first step in preparing your home and your family for an emergency.