



**American
Red Cross**

of the National Capital Area

News Release

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For Immediate Release

AMERICAN RED CROSS OF NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA QUICKLY RESPONDS TO NORTHEAST D.C. COMMUNITY NEEDS DURING MASSIVE POWER OUTAGE, HEATWAVE

Fairfax, Va. (July 24, 2008) – A manhole explosion in Washington, D.C. caused widespread power outages and impacted nearly 1100 residents in Northeast D.C. on Tuesday, July 22. When the American Red Cross of the National Capital Area staff and volunteers were notified, they immediately partnered with D.C.'s Department of Human Services and responded. Because a retirement community housing approximately 300 people was in the immediate vicinity, the Red Cross prepared to shelter those and other local residents in need from the neighborhood near 21st and H Street, NE.

Red Cross worked closely with DHS to immediately set-up a shelter within one hour at McKinley Technology High School located at 151 T Street, NE, making it ready to receive and help clients needing relief from the summer heat. The location was selected by the D.C. government to ensure it was close enough to transport clients, but far enough outside the area affected by the power outage.

Other Red Cross workers in a Canteen, an Emergency Response Vehicle, equipped with water and food arrived in the surrounding neighborhood to provide assistance to local residents while Pepco worked on regaining power. Residents were asked to evacuate their homes, though many chose to remain in front of their property until receiving notification they could reenter their homes at 3:30 a.m Wednesday. Red Cross staff and volunteers continued to restock the Canteen until services were no longer needed.

All American Red Cross of the National Capital Area's disaster assistance is provided free of charge to the clients, and is only made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the local community. Due to a particularly difficult economic climate, donations from local businesses and the public are more critical now than ever.

The **American Red Cross of the National Capital Area**, comprised of more than 3,000 volunteers and fewer than 100 paid staff, provides relief to victims of disaster and empowers people in the D.C. Metro Area to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters and other life-threatening emergencies. Supported solely by the generosity of the local community, your National Capital Area Chapter responds 2-3 times a day to local disasters—553 in 2007 alone—while continuing to build its capacity to effectively prepare for and respond to the next major disaster to strike our community. The National Capital Area Chapter's jurisdiction includes the counties of Prince George's, Montgomery and Fairfax; the District of Columbia and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. The chapter maintains a field office at Fort Belvoir Army Base, and a presence at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Andrews Air Force Base and the National Naval Medical Center. The American Red Cross of the National Capital Area is the premier local resource empowering individuals and mobilizing our community to survive the unexpected and save lives.

For details on the services offered by the American Red Cross of the National Capital Area or for other media assistance, contact Kim Covington, Media Relations, 703-584-8455, covingtonk@redcrossnca.org; or Kathy Thompson, 703-584-8412, Cell: 240-375-9020, or thompsonk@redcrossnca.org.

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