



**American  
Red Cross**

of the National Capital Area

**For Immediate Release**

## News Release

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## American Red Cross of the National Capital Area Deploys Emergency Response Vehicles, Volunteers in Advance of Hurricane Gustav

Fairfax, Va. (Aug. 28, 2008) – The American Red Cross of the National Capital Area is dispatching vehicles, equipment and volunteers to respond to the needs of the Gulf Coast Red Cross in advance of the potential landfall of Hurricane Gustav, which is set to hit that region as early as Monday, Sept. 1.

On Wednesday, Aug. 27, the regional Chapter of the American Red Cross deployed two Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) and four volunteers to a staging area in Alabama. On Thursday, Aug. 28, the region will deploy at least two additional ERVs and additional volunteers from its Montgomery County office, 2020 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Md.

The American Red Cross of the National Capital Area has activated its Regional Disaster Coordination Center (RDCC) at its Fairfax headquarters.

Hurricane Gustav threatens to hit the Gulf Coast even as that region continues to try to recover from Hurricane Katrina, the colossal storm that devastated the entire Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005.

During Katrina, the National Capital Region deployed more than 850 people (primarily volunteers) to the Gulf Coast. Throughout the operation, the region also activated more than 2,000 volunteers and nearly 100 staff. In addition, they opened a shelter at the D.C. Armory on Sept. 8, 2005, and assisted 7,000 evacuees who came to the region from the Gulf Coast. The Katrina Disaster Relief Operation concluded in Feb. 2006.

“We are not waiting to view the scope of these storms,” said Linda Mathes, CEO of the National Capital Region. “We have mobilized and have personnel and equipment on the ground to help those affected by Hurricane Gustav as well as Hanna.”

The **American Red Cross of the National Capital Area**, with a ratio of approximately 55 volunteers to each paid staff member, provides relief to victims of disaster and empowers people in our community to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters and other life-threatening emergencies. Financially supported by the generosity of the local community, the National Capital Area Chapter responds 2-3 times each day to local disasters, while continuing to build its capacity to effectively prepare for and respond to the next major disaster striking our community. Contributions may be mailed to the American Red Cross of the National Capital Area, 8550 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22031. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting [www.redcrossnca.org](http://www.redcrossnca.org).

For details on the National Capital Area Red Cross' response to this or other disasters, contact Kathy Thompson, 240-375-9020, or Kim Covington, 202-437-7348.

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