



**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 Prepares for Tropical Storms Hanna, Ike, Josephine...**

*Fairfax, Va.* (Sep. 5, 2008) – The American Red Cross of the National Capital Area Regional Disaster Coordination Center (RDCC) in the Fairfax office, a 24/7 operation, is providing continued support during the after-effects of Hurricane Gustav. The center is also closely monitoring progress of tropical storm Hanna, due to impact the region Friday and Saturday; Hurricane Ike, forecasted to hit the middle of next week and Josephine following closely behind.

The RDCC is staffed primarily by volunteers who manage multiple work stations and stay in direct contact with American Red Cross' National Headquarters, monitor weather reports and maintain contact with field responders in order to provide the most current information and best support for our region and nation.

To ensure timely response, Red Cross emergency vehicles are being stocked with cots, blankets, water and meals and workers are on stand-by in case shelters must be activated.

“The American Red Cross of the National Capital Area has worked hard to build its capacity to handle disasters such as this series of potentially deadly storms to hit in rapid succession,” said Linda Mathes, CEO of the National Capital Area. “We have volunteers on the ground in Louisiana, Alabama and New Orleans to deal with the affects of Hurricane Gustav, even as we have a full complement of staff actively preparing for Hanna, Ike and whatever else lies ahead.”

The local chapter currently has 20 volunteers in Louisiana, assisting residents there. Partnering with other regional chapters, the National Capital Region has deployed Emergency Response Vehicles to Gustav-affected areas.

The Regional Disaster Coordination Center, located at chapter headquarters, became fully operational for the first time during the State of the Union Address in January 2008. These storms, beginning with Gustav, represent the first multi-day operation in its history.

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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