

American Red Cross Receives Leadership in Community Public Health Award

On Friday December 18, 2009 the Central District Health Department Board of Health recognized the American Red Cross of Greater Idaho with the “Leadership in Community Public Health” award. The award acknowledges the contributions of volunteers with the American Red Cross in support of the district’s efforts to vaccinate the public against the H1N1 flu.

As the health district operated Point of Dispensing (POD) flu clinics in Boise, the Red Cross was asked to provide support to members of the public who were standing in line, often in inclement weather. Red Cross volunteers handed out hot coffee, hot cocoa and water to those waiting to get their flu shots, providing the public with warmth and comfort until they could get inside to

get vaccinated. Over the course of several weeks the Red Cross racked up more than 260 volunteer hours in support of POD operations. Additionally, volunteers acquired the donations of coffee, water and hot cocoa to serve the public. Several other volunteers pulled shifts at the district’s Flu Hotline when call volumes exceeded 650 a day.

“Central District Health is grateful for the support of the American Red Cross of Greater Idaho,” says Russ Duke, Director of Central District Health Department. “We were impressed with the dedication of the volunteers and wanted to recognize the valuable contributions the Red Cross has made to the community as we work to protect public health.”

Winter Driving Tips

As the snow continues to fall, now is a good time to remember some winter driving tips to get you safely to where you need to be during the winter months. Follow these five tips when you go out in the snow or ice this winter:

- Plan Ahead—Winter driving is often slow, so plan for extra time. Make sure your car is properly maintained and keep your gas tank at least half full. Call for current conditions so you know what to expect. In Idaho, call 511 or visit 511.idaho.gov.
- Pack an Emergency Kit—Make sure you have all the essentials you’ll need if you get stuck or delayed, including a flashlight, batteries, warm clothing, blankets, food and water, a lighter, a first aid kit, and a pocket knife.
- Defrost—Make sure your windows (and mirrors and lights!) are free of snow and ice. If you park outside, you’ll probably need to plan extra time to defrost the car on cold mornings.
- Stay Connected—Call friends and family to let them know your plans ahead of time and let them know when you arrive at your destination. Bring your cell phone, make sure it is fully charged, and take a list of emergency numbers such as AAA.
- Be Alert—It is always important to be aware of the drivers around you, especially in hazardous driving conditions. Focus on the road and those around you and never drive when you’re tired.

Happy New Year and safe travels!



Boise
 146 South Cole Road
 Boise, ID 83709
 1-800-853-2570 x0

Coeur d'Alene
 411 N. 15th Street
 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
 1-800-853-2570 x104

Idaho Falls
 330 Shoup Avenue
 Idaho Falls, 83402
 1-800-853-2570 x701

Lewiston
 3332 10th Street
 Lewiston, ID 83501
 1-800-853-2370 x201

Twin Falls
 253 4th Ave. N.
 Twin Falls, ID 83301
 1-800-853-2370 x302

Training Schedules and
 Registration can be located on
www.redcrossidaho.com

Please visit our web site
www.redcrossidaho.org
 or call us at
 1-800-853-2570 for more
 information on how to volunteer
 or donate.

Printing Donated
 By



Kudos to North Central Disaster Responders!

Red Cross disaster responders received high praise from Travis A. Myklebust, Battalion Chief of the City of Lewiston's Fire Department. Myklebust's letter of commendation recognized two "extremely helpful" Red Cross volunteers who responded to house fires in November and showed the occupants who lost most of their possessions what the Red Cross is all about. Ronna Waller, Disaster Action Team Captain for the North Central Idaho region, noted that other volunteers were also involved in the effort. Myklebust thanked the Red Cross volunteers for all their time and hard work, noting that "your agency is a tremendous asset to the fire department and the citizens of our community and I look forward to working with you in the future." Myklebust's words are a great reminder of how much Red Cross volunteers are needed and appreciated. Keep up the great work!

Are You Interested in Being a Red Cross Hero?

The new year is a great time to think about new opportunities for giving, and the Red Cross has a unique fundraising effort coming up in March, which is Red Cross Month. The Red Cross Heroes campaign will kick off March 1 and run all month long. Local "Heroes" will work hard to help the Red Cross raise money to continue its services throughout Idaho. "Heroes for the American Red Cross" is a grassroots campaign where local business people, school groups, church groups, civic clubs, and individuals pledge to raise \$1,000 for their local Red Cross chapter. This March, the Greater Idaho Chapter hopes to raise \$25,000 to support Red Cross services, including disaster relief, assistance for fire victims, emergency military communications, first aid and CPR training, and disaster preparedness information. If you are interested in being a Hero, contact the Greater Idaho Chapter. Individuals or groups can raise money any way they want, so get creative, get involved, and get others motivated to help the Red Cross!



Photos from the 2009 Flu Clinic



Chapter Wish List

Christmas has just passed and many gifts were given and received. But sometimes the best gift is the one that starts out the year on the right foot.

Our chapter has many needs to continue providing disaster relief and emergency preparation in our communities. The paid and volunteer staff work hard to provide for those needs as judiciously as possible using the gracious donations of citizens throughout the state. But in tough times, tough decisions are made.

Below is a list of some of the needs our chapter has but can't meet immediately. You can help. If you or anyone you know can fulfill one of the wish list items below, please contact the chapter through newsletter@redcrossidaho.org or call 800-853-2570. Your message will be routed to the contact person for that area. We will answer any questions you have and make arrangements with you for the donation. You will also receive a letter of acknowledgement that can serve as a tax receipt.

Help the Red Cross start out the New Year right.

North Idaho, Coeur d'Alene

New windshield for chapter vehicle
New window lettering in chapter vehicle
TV/DVD combo for instructing classes
Case of copy paper
Three-ring binders (2 1/2 or 3 inch)
New monitor for computer

North Central Idaho, Lewiston

New windshield for chapter vehicle
Thank you Pat & Ronna Waller for donation of two barely used computers

Southwest Idaho, Boise

New windshield for chapter vehicle
Large, carpeted rubber door mats
Heavy duty or professional grade vacuum cleaner
Professional upholstery cleaning of classroom and office chairs
Brake job on chapter vehicle
New or used flat screen computer monitors

South Central Idaho, Twin Falls

Thank you Magic Valley Storage for monthly storage units for disaster supplies

East Idaho, Idaho Falls

Touch up lettering on disaster response trailer
Thank you Broadway Ford for paint job to cover graffiti on trailer

Chapterwide

Computer memory cards
Sponsor for upgrade of MS Office 95 to 98 version (can already take advantage of non-profit discount but need sponsor for remaining balance)
New fire extinguishers for each chapter vehicle
Miscellaneous, small items for vehicle emergency kits (write fleet@redcrossidaho.org to get list)
Public Relations volunteer
Thank you Dex for yellow page advertising of Red Cross services
Thank you Horizon/Alaska Air for stand-by flights in Idaho