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## Spring Storms and Tornadoes – June 21, 2011

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### GENERAL

**Wildfires, floods and tornadoes continue to have an effect across the country, and Red Cross workers are helping people get back on their feet.**

- **Wildfires** are consuming thousands of acres in Arizona, New Mexico, Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, California, Alaska and Colorado. Red Cross shelters are open in Arizona and Texas and workers are distributing food and drinks to firefighters and first responders.
- **Flooding** continues in the Missouri River Basin and in Kentucky where heavy rainfall is adding to the problems from the already swollen rivers. The Red Cross has shelters open in Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, South Dakota and Tennessee to help those where high waters threaten their communities.
- **Tornado** clean-up and recovery continues in western **Massachusetts and around Joplin, Missouri** where tornadoes heavily damaged communities in the past month. The Red Cross has shelters open and is distributing meals, drinks, comfort kits and clean-up items throughout the affected areas.
- Overall, several hundred people are still spending their nights in Red Cross shelters in 10 states across the U.S.

### FUNDRAISING

**Please consider making a donation today to help the thousands of people who have been affected by the disasters of the last several months and those which may occur as the 2011 hurricane season gets underway.**

- To donate, visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Contributions may also be sent to your local Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

**The Red Cross estimates that it will spend as much as \$51 million responding to the disasters which have occurred since March 31 – and the cost is growing as new disasters occur.**

- The estimate includes the continuous string of disasters that have hit the United States over the past two months, including the wildfires in throughout the southwest, the tornadoes which devastated areas of the south and midwest and flooding in the northwest and along the Mississippi River.
- Over the past three months, the Red Cross has raised more than **\$68 million** for disaster response.
- Nationally, the Red Cross must raise about \$378 million annually to respond to an average of 70,000 disasters each year, and these major disasters over the past several weeks adds an additional \$51 million more to this amount.
- Our work isn't done yet, since tornadoes are historically frequent throughout June and the 2011 hurricane season, starting June 1, is predicted to be above average.

## **Reactive Talking Points about Funds Raised for Disaster Relief**

- Gifts to support American Red Cross Disaster Relief ensure that no matter where a disaster happens, the Red Cross can respond without delay.
- The need to support Disaster Relief never ends since the Red Cross responds to an average of 70,000 disasters each year. Unrestricted gifts are preferred because these donations make it possible for the Red Cross to help people before and after any disaster, no matter when or where it happens.
- Over the past two months, the Red Cross has raised more than \$68 million for disaster response. About a third of these donations (\$24 million) were unrestricted gifts to Disaster Relief to support countless crises anywhere they happen.

## **FAST FACTS**

**Since March 31, the Red Cross has launched 42 relief operations in 29 states helping people affected by tornadoes, floods and wildfires by:**

- Serving more than 3 million meals and snacks.
- Opening more than 270 shelters and providing 31,000 overnight stays.
- Providing more than 68,000 mental health and health consultations.
- Handing out more than 1.3 million relief items like toothbrushes and shampoo, tarps, coolers, rakes and other clean-up supplies.
- Deploying more than 12,000 trained disaster relief workers from all 50 states.