

## NEWS RELEASE

American Red Cross  
of Central Alabama  
5015 Woods Crossing  
Montgomery, AL 36106  
[www.montgomeryarc.org](http://www.montgomeryarc.org)

Contact: Jackie Buck, C.E.O  
Phone: (334) 260-3981  
[buckj@montgomeryarc.org](mailto:buckj@montgomeryarc.org)

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### **American Red Cross Reaches Out to States Affected by Weekend Tornadoes**

*Recent tornado activity leaves widespread destruction.*

**Montgomery, April 26, 2010** – The American Red Cross is providing shelter, food, and comfort to people across the South as they deal with the aftermath of the deadly tornadoes that swept through the area over the weekend.

The severe weather hit several states, including Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee and South Carolina. Mississippi was hardest hit with numerous tornadoes touching down Saturday. Damage is widespread and thousands are without power. The governors of Louisiana and Mississippi issued a State of Emergency for the affected areas. In Alabama three counties were affected, Marshall, Dekalb and Walker with 60 homes destroyed, 122 with major damage and 311 with minor damage.

Throughout the affected states, the Red Cross has numerous shelters open and is providing food and comfort items for those left homeless by the powerful storms. Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles are providing meals across the area. Red Cross Disaster Action Teams are also being deployed to offer casework services and assistance and visit families as they try to salvage some of their belongings.

In the aftermath of the tornadoes, the Red Cross offers steps people should take to stay safe. They should return home only when authorities say it is safe to do so. When they do, they should wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and sturdy shoes. As they return, they should watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines and report them to the utility company immediately. For more information on how to be prepared for tornadoes, visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Help people affected by disasters like these tornadoes by donating to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve victims of other disasters. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for disasters and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance to victims of all disasters. Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to the American Red Cross of Central Alabama at 5015 Woods Crossing Dr., Montgomery, AL 36106 or to your local Chapter. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting [www.montgomeryarc.org](http://www.montgomeryarc.org), and credit card donations may be made by calling (334) 260-3980.

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*The American Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year, almost a million volunteers and 35,000 employees helped victims of almost 75,000 disasters; taught lifesaving skills to millions; and helped U.S. service members separated from their families stay connected. Almost 4 million people gave blood through the Red Cross, the largest U.S. supplier of blood and blood products. The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work.*

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