RELIEF IN ACTION

HURRICANE HARVEY

AUGUST 28, 2017

American Red Cross

Red Cross Mounts Massive Response as Catastrophic Floods Continue

Packing terrifying gusts of up to 132 miles per hour and torrential rainfall, Hurricane Harvey slammed into the Texas Gulf Coast Friday evening – the first Category 4 hurricane to make landfall in the U.S. since 2004. And that was only the beginning.

Harris County in the Houston metro area has been hit with more than 30 inches of rainfall since Friday, and thousands of water rescues have taken place across the region. Much of Houston is underwater, and the stalled tropical storm will inundate parts of Texas and southwest Louisiana with up to several feet of additional rain over the coming days, causing catastrophic, life-threatening flooding.

The American Red Cross is working around the clock to provide safe shelter and comfort for thousands impacted by this devastating storm, like Gloria and Santos De La Cruz, who were staying at a shelter in La Marque, Texas. "[This] means everything to us... we feel like it's saving our lives to be here," said Gloria.

At least 6,000 residents have already sought refuge in our shelters, and with that number expected to grow drastically in the days ahead, the Red Cross has launched a massive relief response. About 2,000 dedicated volunteers and employees are battling impassable roads and dangerous conditions to help people forced from their homes, with more workers headed to the area every day.

The Red Cross has enough shelter supplies on hand in Texas to support thousands of people, with much more on the way. In addition, tractor trailer loads of ready-to-eat meals, comfort kits, and kitchen and cleaning supplies are on the ground, and more than 150 emergency response vehicles – nearly half of our fleet – have been mobilized.

Catastrophic flooding continues to impact Houston. Harvey's torrential rains have inundated communities across Texas and forced thousands from their homes. Daniel Cima / American Red Cross

Our work is just getting started. "This is a time for folks to come together to support one another," said Brad Kieserman, Red Cross Vice President of Disaster Services Operations and Logistics. "We are launching our largest hurricane relief effort in years, and with the help of our partners, we are ready to shelter thousands of people."

Response at a Glance

The American Red Cross is helping thousands of people in Texas and Louisiana coping with devastating flooding caused by Harvey.

Approximately **2,000 Red Cross workers** mobilized

More than **150 response vehicles** deployed

At least **6,000 people** sheltered

—Cumulative figures as of August 28, 2017

American Red Cross

Family Finds Safety at Shelter

Stephanie and Claudette are grandmother and aunt to Mikayla, Jaydon, Larissa and Keyseion, and the lifelong Texas residents weren't leaving anything to chance with Hurricane Harvey.

As caregivers to four children under the age of 10, Stephanie and Claudette knew they needed to make the safest decision possible for the family. That decision was coming to a Red Cross shelter in Victoria, Texas.

"I'm glad we came here… to keep the kids safe," said Claudette.

Red Cross Encourages Residents to Stay Safe from Flood Threat

With support from our generous donors, we will remain to help affected residents as they face heartbreaking losses – through the flooding and beyond. The full scope and impact of this disaster will not be known for days and even weeks, but we know that the needs will be immense.

Extremely dangerous flooding is expected to continue in parts of Texas and Louisiana through the week. The Red Cross offers a free Emergency App that people in the impacted area can download to have safety information, shelter locations and severe weather alerts at their fingertips.

The app's "Family Safe" feature also allows people to check in on loved ones and instantly see if they are okay – even if the loved one hasn't downloaded the Emergency App onto their device.

To download the app, search American Red Cross in smartphone app stores or go to **redcross.org/apps**.

Flood Safety Tips

People living in areas under a flood threat should keep important flood safety tips in mind:

- If your neighborhood is prone to flooding, be prepared to evacuate quickly if necessary.
- Head for higher ground and stay there.
- Turn around, don't drown. Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of moving water. If you encounter a flooded roadway, turn around and go another way.
- Stay away from floodwaters, and keep children out of the water.
- Be especially cautious at night when it's harder to see flood danger.
- Continue listening to local area radio, NOAA radio or TV stations for the latest information and updates.

How You Can Help

Help people affected by Hurricane Harvey. Your donation enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from this disaster. Please contact your relationship manager to make a gift today. Contributions may also be sent to your Red Cross chapter.