



**American  
Red Cross**

# Red Cross News

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**From the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Red Cross**

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## Summer Safety Spotlight

### One Drowning is Too Many

In southern Nevada, summer means swimming, as everyone tries to have some fun and beat the heat. But it's only fun if it's safe.

In 2007, the Southern Nevada Health District reported nine drownings and 46 near drownings – the highest number since 2002.

Tragically, two children have already died this spring, by falling into backyard swimming pools.

"Summer is a great time to relax -except when it comes to

water safety," says Connie Harvey, American Red Cross health and safety expert.

"Playing it safe in and around the pool and following a few simple guidelines will prevent many accidents." The best



advice for families with pools at home, she said, is to make sure that all family members, including children, know how to swim (contact your local municipal pool for class schedules). Even if all family members know how to swim, everyone should follow these Red Cross safety tips:

- Never leave a child unattended near water. Because it only takes a second for a small child to fall into a pool and slip underwater, adult

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### Cox Communications Summer Safety Fairs Debut this June

When can shopping be an educational experience? Join us this June as we partner with Cox Communications at the first annual Cox Summer Safety Fairs, at Meadows and Boulevard Malls. There will be CPR demonstrations, safety information provided by Metro and local fire departments, and activities for kids. The first 200 children each day will be able to audition to appear in a PSA for Cox's new public service initiative, *Take Charge of the Internet*. Don't miss it!

- Saturday, June 14, 10:00 am—2:00 pm Meadows Mall
- Saturday, June 21, 10:00 am—2:00 pm Boulevard Mall

### Disaster Action Team Wins Community Enrichment Award

On May 2, the Chapter's Disaster Action Teams (DAT) received a 2008 Community Enrichment Award from the Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada.

The Community Enrichment Awards honor groups and individuals who have performed particularly outstanding volunteer service. Local DAT members respond to a disaster every 34 hours, providing emergency food, clothing, and shelter for families who have lost their homes, primarily to fire. To join this outstanding group of volunteers, contact Rebecca Garcia at (702) 531-0232. ■



## Join Our Volunteer Team

Do you want to do something for the community but aren't sure what to do? The Southern Nevada Chapter has volunteer opportunities to fit any schedule or area of interest.

Only free for a few hours at a time? Only nights and weekends? Don't worry – your service can still have a tremendous impact.

Check out the opportunities currently available, and contact Rebecca Garcia at (702) 531-0232 or [rebeccad@redcrosslasvegas.org](mailto:rebeccad@redcrosslasvegas.org) for more information.

- **Disaster Action Team (DAT)** - Respond to local disaster scenes and provide emergency assistance.

*These are the award-winning volunteers recently honored by the Volunteer Center!*

- **Disaster Caseworker** – Follow up with disaster victims to help them recover from the effects of a disaster.
- **Instructor** - Teach CPR, First Aid, and Automated Electronic Defibrillator use to community members.

- **Community Disaster Education Speaker** – Represent the Red Cross at community events by providing information about preparedness and health and safety classes.



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Do you have a used car, boat, or RV taking up space in your garage or driveway? You can help the vital work of the Southern Nevada Chapter by donating your vehicle today. The proceeds from the sale of your vehicle at auction go to support the programs of the Red Cross in southern Nevada. Your vehicle donation is tax deductible. To donate your vehicle please call Charity Car Donations at (702) 450-1521.

## Are You Red Cross Ready?

### Disaster Preparedness is Easy – and Begins at Home

If you could do something to protect your family, strengthen your community, build your confidence, and save time, money, and perhaps even someone's life, would you do it?

Now, what if that "something" took just a few minutes of your time and was explained in three simple steps?

When you stop and think about it, preparing ahead of

time for disasters and first aid emergencies makes perfect sense. Yet for some reason, preparing doesn't make it to the top of our "to do list."

Especially here in southern Nevada, where the weather is good so much of the time, it is easy to forget that disasters happen everywhere, whether it's flooding after a summer storm, or an earthquake or wildfire.

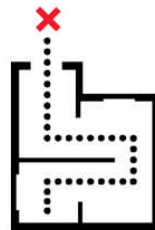
This spring, the Southern Nevada Chapter urges everyone to "Be Red Cross Ready" for disasters and first aid emergencies by taking three simple actions:

- 1) Get a kit, 2) Make a plan, and 3) Be informed. There is even an online tutorial available at [www.redcross.org/BeRedCrossReady](http://www.redcross.org/BeRedCrossReady).

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**Get a kit**



**Make a plan**



**Be informed**

## Notes from Chapter CEO Jeffrey Varnes

The vision of the Southern Nevada Chapter is to provide leadership so that Southern Nevada will be the community best prepared to prevent and respond to emergencies.

Achieving this vision will require many actions by the Chapter. One of these will be to launch an initiative called "Safety Net." The idea behind Safety Net is simple: when an emergency occurs, your safety and the safety of those around you will depend on how well you are prepared and how you react. Through Safety Net, the Chapter will set out to:



Jeffrey M. Varnes

- Increase the number of individuals trained to respond to personal and community emergencies
- Increase the number of venues in the community that provide Automated External Defibrillators and trained personal to respond to accidents and health emergencies
- Increase the number of workplaces that have trained response personnel or teams
- Increase the number of families prepared to respond to family or community emergencies

We believe that through this initiative, our community will not only be significantly better prepared but substantially more lives will be saved in Southern Nevada.

You can support this initiative by being trained in First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator and becoming a member of the Safety Net Corps.

Stay tuned for more information during the summer.

*Jeffrey M. Varnes*

## Drowning Prevention (from page 1)

supervision is always required during pool usage. When infants or toddlers are playing near a pool, an adult should be no more than an arm's length away, providing "reach supervision."

- Keep basic lifesaving equipment near the pool, and learn how to use it. The Red Cross recommends a reaching pole, a portable phone and U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation devices - such as life jackets and ring buoys.
- Surround a backyard pool with a fence at least 4 feet high on all sides. To prevent a child from gaining access to the water, the Red Cross recommends that the fence have a self-closing, self-latching gate that remains locked when the pool is not being used.
- Keep toys away from the pool area. Because toys can attract children, it is safest to keep them out of sight when the pool is not being used.
- Learn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Families with backyard pools must insist that babysitters, grandparents and anyone else who cares for their children learn lifesaving CPR. **To register for a CPR class today, visit [www.redcrosslasvegas.org](http://www.redcrosslasvegas.org) or call (702) 791-3311**



**According to a 2007 poll conducted by the American Red Cross, only seven percent of the population has taken what the Red Cross considers the three steps necessary to prepare for a disaster or emergency: get a kit, make a plan, and be informed.**

## Upcoming Training Opportunities

### Be Red Cross Ready

Preparedness Presentation

- Wednesday, June 04
- Wednesday, June 11
- Wednesday, June 18

All presentations 7pm - 8pm

At the Chapter office  
1771 E. Flamingo Rd., #206-B  
Las Vegas, NV 89119  
Call (702) 791-3311 to reserve a spot

### Chapter Response to Disaster

**This is the class for volunteers interested in serving on Disaster Action Teams.**

Tuesday, June 03, 9am - 5pm

Saturday, June 14, 9am - 5pm

Register online at :  
[www.redcrosslasvegas.org](http://www.redcrosslasvegas.org)

## Annual Meeting Notice

The Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold its Annual Meeting at 7:30 am, June 25, 2008.

The meeting will be held at the Chapter office, at 1771 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 206-B, in Las Vegas.

All Red Cross supporters are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact the Chapter at (702) 791-3311



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## Be Red Cross Ready



### Be Red Cross Ready (from p. 2)

The interactive web site includes downloadable brochures and checklists to help you get started. In less than twenty minutes you'll learn exactly how you can become Red Cross Ready by getting a kit, making a plan, and becoming informed.

The Southern Nevada Chapter also has a team of volunteer speakers who can come out and address your civic group, club or church about disaster preparedness, at no charge. These community disaster education presentations can be scheduled by contacting the chapter at (702) 791-3311, or e-mail to Ryan Turner at [turner@redcrosslasvegas.org](mailto:turner@redcrosslasvegas.org).

Knowledge of first aid and CPR are also vital components of disaster preparedness, and the Chapter offers classes throughout the year so you can get trained and then brush up on your first aid and CPR skills every year. We

even provide training in pet first aid and CPR, so you can take care of your pets in an emergency too. A list of available classes is available on the Chapter's web site, [www.redcrosslasvegas.org](http://www.redcrosslasvegas.org).



Preparing for a disaster or first aid emergency has clear benefits that extend to our entire community. We hope you will do your part by taking three simple steps to be "Red Cross Ready" this summer. ■

### Volunteer Opportunities (from page 2)

- **Services to the Armed Forces Caseworker** – Assist members of the military and their families with emergency communications and access to financial assistance in times of need.
- **General Office Assistant** – Provide clerical support such as filing, phone calls and photocopying.
- **Communications** – Assist with various projects such as web site maintenance and newsletter production.
- **Data Entry** – Enter information into Red Cross databases for various departments.

Training is available for all volunteer opportunities■