

# RED ALERTS!



Keeping our Red Cross volunteers workforce engaged and informed



### HIT THE LINKS

Here are a few resources we hope you'll find useful.

**MINDFULNESS VIDEOS** from Red Cross of Idaho and Montana volunteers with coping tips and techniques during COVID-19:

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)
- [Video 4](#)

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

video: <https://youtu.be/DswN7fpIvJM>



**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT** for information on our client assistance card verification project on June 1.



## 28

**Disaster responses** in March.  
**Families helped:** 32



### MILESTONES

**ERNIE LYTLE,**  
10 years

**AMBER BLINCOE,**  
5 years

**DARYL TATE,**  
5 years



Ada County volunteer Terry Tippery has been with the Red Cross for nearly two decades and has responded to many disasters. That response looks a lot different now during COVID-19.

# Disasters don't take a break

*Though the response looks different, volunteers still deliver comfort and care during age of COVID-19*

**D**uring their years with the Red Cross, Ada County volunteers Sandy and Terry Tippery have helped many families following a home fire, but an early-morning response in April was their first during the age of COVID-19 and social distancing.

And it was far from business as usual.

After talking with the woman over the phone to determine what she and her family needed,

the couple asked her to meet them in the parking lot of an all-night Boise restaurant. They told her to pull up alongside their vehicle and place an ID on the hood of their car and then get back in. The Tiperlys then got out, checked the ID and placed an envelope with a client assistance card on the hood before getting back in their vehicle.

When it was all said and done, the Tiperlys had given the woman and her family the re-



**Sandy Tippery**

**SEE DISASTERS, PAGE 2**



Montana Red Cross Executive Director Diane Wright loads drinks and snacks that will be provided to families following a Great Falls apartment fire.

## Red Cross applauds heroes following accident

A California man accidentally shot during a Montana hunting trip is alive today because of the quick actions of emergency responders and the generosity of blood donors. And a Montana Red Cross volunteer is working to help recognize those efforts.

Danny Lucas Sr. was hunting with family and friends in a remote area outside of Lewistown in November when a rifle accidentally discharged

while being unloaded from their pickup. The bullet hit the fire department captain in both legs, shattering his left femur and tearing his femoral artery.

Lucas' father-in-law Ramon used his belt to make a tourniquet while the group desperately called 9-1-1. Because of poor cellphone coverage, the family and dispatchers made a dozen calls back and forth before they could relay the hunters' remote location. The hunt-

ing party then loaded Lucas into the truck and headed down rural roads to meet the Denton ambulance.

About 90 minutes after the accident occurred, Fergus County Sheriff Deputy Kirby Dempster and the ambulance met the hunters and loaded Lucas into the ambulance bound for the Central Montana Medical Center in Lewistown.

**SEE HEROES, PAGE 2**

*Let your voice be heard: Take your volunteer satisfaction survey*

# It's tough, but we're still shining

The COVID-19 challenges and changes have been plenty, but our region has proven time and time again that we're up to the task. Here are some successes we all can be proud of:

■ **CELEBRATING ZERO:** As of April 21, our frontline biomedical colleagues have **no reported cases** of COVID-19.

■ **WE'RE NUMBER 1:** In March, the Montana Biomedical Donor Services teams ranked **No. 1** and Idaho No. 5 in the country for customer service. This is remarkable given the surge in donations and all the changes that were required at such a rapid pace.

■ **ALL ABOARD:** Our Volunteer

Services teams have been working on overdrive to process **159 new volunteer applications** since March 1. Those new additions include health screeners, blood donor ambassadors and scheduling assistants – critical positions helping us keep our blood drives safe and running smoothly.

## Ketchup with Friends

Thanks again to those who joined us at our Ketchup with Friends virtual gatherings the past two weeks. We've had lots of fun laughing, relaxing and



reconnecting.

Haven't hung out with us yet? We would love to have you. We meet (virtually) every Wednesday at noon for a half hour. The best part -- it's all play and no work.

Join us Wednesday by clicking here: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

## Send us your questions

We encourage you to send in your questions about how we are adapting and responding during this time of COVID-19 and let us know what we can do to better support you by sending an email to [IDMT.info@redcross.org](mailto:IDMT.info@redcross.org).

# Heroes: Lucas needed 24 units

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Doctors there performed emergency surgery to stop the bleeding before Lucas was flown to Billings. Because he had lost so much blood and the damage was so extensive, the decision was made to amputate the lower part of his left leg. After 41 days in the Billings hospital, Lucas was finally able to return to his home in Watsonville.

When it was all said and done, more than 20 people across several agencies played a role in keeping Lucas alive.

As a result of their heroic efforts, the Fergus County responders were nominated and selected to receive Certificates of Extraordinary Personal Action – lifesaving awards given by the American Red Cross. Recipients included those from Central Montana Dispatch, the Fergus County Sheriff's Office, Denton EMT Volunteer Ambulance Service, the Central Montana Medical Center paramedic unit and the Central Montana emergency room and operating room teams.

Working with other community partners, Montana Red Cross volunteer John Koch helped organize an event in Lewistown in early April to recognize those responders, but the ceremony was postponed because of the coronavirus outbreak. They hope to reschedule.

"The doctors in Billings told Danny that had it not been for the people and the treatment and care he got all the way from the time of the incident until he woke up in the hospital in Billings he



Jim Burns photo

Danny Lucas, shown here at his Watsonville, Calif., home with his dog Stella, needed 24 units of blood following a hunting accident in Montana in November.

## READ MORE ABOUT DANNY:

- [Watsonville Fire Captain knows the value of blood donations](#)
- [Danny Lucas drive nets 80 units](#)

would not have made it," Koch said.

Lucas, who's 60, received a remarkable 24 units of blood during his treatment and recovery, two times the amount of blood a typical adult male has in his body. Lucas is a blood donor himself who has donated close to eight gallons, and Koch worked with local media, Red Cross biomedical staff and the Lucas family to tell this miraculous story of survival and promote an April blood drive in Lewistown. Organizers added a third day to the every-other-month drive, which collected 145 units, 45 more units than usual.

"The community really did step up," Koch said. "It's neat to see that."

Lucas continues to recover at his home in Watsonville and hopes to return to work at the fire department. He is also helping promote Red Cross blood drives in his hometown in an effort to make sure others also have access to lifesaving blood when they need it most.

"I was taught a long time ago that life is less about you and more about what you can do to help others," he told the Northern California Coastal Region Red Cross. "People really came to my aid in my time of need, so I want to get back to giving back now that I'm home again.

"From the first-responders to the personnel at the Lewistown hospital who stopped the bleeding to save my life, I have never met you but my admiration cannot be expressed here. To the entire staff of Saint Vincent's Hospital in Billings our feelings to all of you are the same. Finally, to the Billings Fire Department, you epitomize the brotherhood of firefighters."

# Disasters: Recent apartment fires

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sources they needed to begin getting back on their feet without putting her or themselves at risk.

A few days later, a man who had also been displaced by that same fire called, and they repeated the process with him.

"We didn't even share any airspace," said Sandy, who has volunteered with the organization for about a decade. "I think it's safer than going to the grocery store."

"It was pretty spartan," Terry said. "But it worked."

While the Red Cross approach has changed during the coronavirus outbreak, the organization continues to provide the same level of comfort and

care to families following disaster.

Since March, the Red Cross responded to 50 home fires across Idaho and Montana, helping 169 people meet their most immediate needs.

"Just because we're experiencing a pandemic right now doesn't mean other disasters stop," said Ted Koenig, regional disaster officer for the Red Cross of Idaho and Montana. "We can't thank our volunteers enough for continuing to answer the call when our friends and neighbors need us most."

## Recent apartment fires

Montana Red Cross is providing food, lodging and other support to 45 people following an early morning fire in Great Falls earlier this month.

Because congregate sheltering at a gym or church isn't safe during the coronavirus outbreak, the organization is putting up clients in local hotels.

Idaho Red Cross also helped 29 people meet their most immediate needs following a recent apartment fire in Nampa.

In the world of disaster response, Red Cross volunteers are no strangers to changing course as the situation on the ground evolves, and the COVID-19 outbreak is no exception.

"We know exactly what is going on in the world, and we've adapted and are still responding to clients' needs," Sandy Tippery said.

"We're still open for business," Terry added.



# Davis joins disaster team

The American Red Cross of Idaho has hired Scott Davis as its new disaster program manager for eastern and south-central Idaho.

Davis will oversee the organization’s disaster response in the area, working with volunteers to meet families’ most immediate needs following home fires, wildfires and floods.

He also will lead the organization’s disaster preparedness campaigns, including efforts to install free smoke alarms in East Idaho homes and teach families about fire safety.

Davis has a master’s degree in emergency and crisis management from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and a bachelors from Brigham Young University-Idaho.

While completing his education, he interned for the Madison County Office of Emergency Management where he coordinated a full-scale emergency exercise in collaboration with the Idaho State Health Department.

Prior to joining the Red Cross, Davis



worked in property management for four years. He has lived in eastern Idaho for 10 years, and he and his wife Vanessa have three young boys. Beginning in June, Davis will be based in Idaho Falls.

“I have a passion for helping people prepare for disasters,” Davis said. “I’m ecstatic to live and serve in this great area and community.”

Davis takes over the position previously occupied by Rusty Devereaux, who retired in April after five years

with the Red Cross. During that time, Devereaux was skilled at building relationships and working with community partners to deliver Red Cross services.

“Rusty brought a talent and passion for engaging East Idaho communities around preparedness, response and recovery,” said Ted Koenig, regional disaster officer for Idaho and Montana. “With Scott’s leadership, we hope to further Rusty’s work in building resilient, disaster-prepared communities.”

Reach Scott at [scott.davis2@redcross.org](mailto:scott.davis2@redcross.org) or 208-223-3924.

## Gutierrez moving on

George Gutierrez, the disaster program manager for southwest Idaho, has accepted a position as bureau chief of the Idaho Crime Victims Compensation Program. His last day with the Red Cross will be May 8.

We thank George for his service to the Red Cross and wish him luck.

## Thank you for everything, Rusty!



After five years as the Red Cross disaster program manager for Eastern Idaho, Rusty Devereaux retired in April.

