

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our Red Cross volunteer workforce engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

- July 4 – Independence Day
- July 20 – Regional volunteer townhalls. See page 2 for links and more details.
- July 26 – [National Disability Independence Day](#)



22

Disaster responses in June. Clients helped: 71



MILESTONES

- JOHNNIE SUE ELLIOTT,** 15 years
- NADINE BROWN,** 10 years
- MARY CARPARELLI,** 10 years
- SUE HAWTHORNE,** 10 years
- TERESA BROWNING,** 5 years



FOLLOW US

Thanks again to everyone who follows us on Facebook. And if you don't, please come check us out. For Red Cross news and updates visit [facebook.com/MontanaRedCross](https://www.facebook.com/MontanaRedCross) or www.facebook.com/RedCrossIdaho

VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Celebrating your Red Cross anniversary this month? If so, watch for a Volunteer Satisfaction Survey. You will receive an email with the subject line "We need your feedback." Completing this survey helps us understand where we can improve. You can share additional feedback anytime by emailing IDMTE-OR.teamwork@redcross.org.



Keegan Hall and Montana Red Cross Board Chair Craig Stahlberg present Mike Crockett with a Red Cross Lifesaving Award. Keegan received CPR after falling from playground equipment.

Teacher receives lifesaving award

Missoula man performs CPR on student after playground fall

Longtime teacher Mike Crockett was standing on the top of a slide – his normal lookout perch during recess duty – when he saw, and heard, 11-year-old Keegan Hall fall from a piece of playground equipment.

"I was probably 25 yards away, and I heard a pretty significant thud," said Mike, a teacher of 18 years who lives in Missoula.

It took Mike just a few seconds to realize that Keegan's fall was serious. He climbed down the slide, hopped a small fence and rushed over to Keegan.

"The first thing that struck me – that scared me – was his labored breathing. It wasn't normal," Mike said. "And then it was that realization that now I actually have



From left, Montana Red Cross Board Chairman Craig Stahlberg, Lifesaving Award recipient and teacher Mike Crockett, Keegan Hall, Keegan's dad Matt Hall, Keegan's mom KayCee Hall and Keegan's sister Kenzie Hall.

to do something." That's when Mike's training kicked in. Besides being a teacher, Mike also volunteers with the Missoula Search and Rescue team, where first aid and CPR are just a small part of the training expectations. With Mike at his side, Keegan remained unresponsive and his breathing struggles continued so Mike began

administering CPR. Somewhere along the way he also instructed Keegan's twin sister Kenzie and her friends to go tell the office to call 9-1-1 and retrieve an AED. Fortunately, before they had to use the AED to shock Keegan, he regained consciousness and began to

SEE AWARD, PAGE 2

Montana volunteers lauded

Three outstanding Red Cross volunteers were honored during the Montana board of directors annual meeting in June.

SHERRILYN HAMILTON
Sherrilyn Hamilton, who joined Red Cross in 2017 after she was impacted by the Dahl wildfire near her home in Roundup, received the Tom Wozniak Award for Excellence. She and her husband Kendal lost everything in the fire and were helped by Red Cross.

Since then, she and Kendal have volunteered with Red Cross and have worn many hats. She has been the leader of the Disaster Action Team in Billings and has deployed



across the state in response to floods and wildfires. She has even stepped in as the interim Disaster Program Manager twice when we have had a vacancy in that position.

Her most recent and signifi-

cant deployment was for the Yellowstone flooding last summer. She also responded to the BobCat wildfire outside of Roundup, the 2017 Rice Ridge fire near Seeley Lake, two fires near Eureka the same year and a major hailstorm that hit Shepherd in 2019.

She and Kendal are both emergency response vehicle drivers, and Sherrilyn is also a driver instructor for our region.

"When I'm there as a responder and I can leave a person in a better place emotionally, it's hard to describe how much that means," Sherrilyn said. "What I got from the Red Cross

SEE VOLS, PAGE 2

Join our upcoming volunteer town hall

Take part in our all-region town hall, learn more about our wildfire preparedness program and help give the gift of life by donating blood. Learn more below.

TOWN HALLS: Save the date for our next quarterly all-region town hall meetings. We are offering the same meeting at two different times. These meetings will provide an overview of fiscal year 2024 priorities within each line of service. We will share a summary of volunteer satisfaction survey feedback and actions taken (based on survey responses) to improve your volunteer experience within our region.

Meeting option 1: July 20 at noon MST Click [here](#) to join the meeting.

Meeting option 2: July 20 at 5 p.m. MST. Click [here](#) to join the meeting.

WILDFIRE PROJECT: As part of a pilot program, Red Cross volunteers and partners helped a mobile home community in Livingston reduce their wildfire risk. With the help of community partners, residents learned about how to create defensible spaces around their homes by removing excess brush and moving woodpiles and other flammable materials further from their homes. Volunteers also went over a

IN THE KNOW



RED CROSS NEWS & HAPPENINGS

wildfire safety checklist with families, outlining what to do if a wildfire is threatening their property. The project made 13 homes safer from wildfires.



BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED:

Summer is always a challenging time to collect lifesaving blood as people get busy with outdoor activities and summer vacations. Fourth of July week is especially difficult.

But the need for blood never takes a summer vacation, and patients are counting on us to help keep hospital shelves stocked.

Please consider giving the gift of life and donating today.

Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter your zip code to find a drive near you and make an appointment. Or call 800-RED-CROSS. A donation takes less than hour and can save more than one life.

As a thank-you, those who donate July 1-11 will receive a Red Cross dry bag and a \$15 gift card via email.

Those who give July 12-16 will receive a \$15 gift card by email, and those who donate July 17-31 will get an exclusive Shark Week shirt.

And finally, anyone who donates blood from July 12-Aug. 12 is entered to win a trip to New York and a private shark dive at the Long Island Aquarium.

Lots of great thank-yous and lots of opportunities to help save lives.

GREEN TEAM: Our new Green Team needs you! Facilitated by Chief Operations Officer Wendy McGrew and Regional Disaster Officer Scott O’Connell, the Green Team will come up with ways to make our organization more eco-friendly.

The Green Team is looking to round out the group with new members – either paid staff or volunteers. Learn more by emailing wen-mcgreg2@redcross.org.

Award: Keegan makes a full recovery

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breathe normally on this own again. The ambulance and paramedics arrived soon after, and Keegan made a full recovery.

“Ultimately all that matters is that he’s happy and healthy and his family gets to be with him,” Mike said.

In May, Montana Red Cross recognized Mike’s calm, quick actions under pressure by presenting him with a Lifesaving Award during a school assembly at St. Joseph’s Catholic School, the fourth such award the Red Cross has handed out in Montana in the past few years. Keegan’s mom KayCee nominated Mike for the award and Keegan helped present it.

“Our family is so grateful to Mike for his heroic response to this accident,” KayCee said. “His awareness, quick thinking and ability to utilize critical



Montana Red Cross Board Chairman Craig Stahlberg presents Mike Crockett with a regional Red Cross T-shirt.

lifesaving skills made a huge impact on the outcome and Keegan’s recovery. As a family, we could not be more thankful for Mike, and we are so appreciative of the American Red Cross for recognizing him.”

Mike said he is humbled by the

award and doesn’t think of himself as a hero.

“I struggle to accept that I saved a life,” Mike said. “I’m more comfortable saying that I did something. I could have panicked. I could have done nothing, and I think that’s a takeaway for why people should be trained. If you can intervene somehow and get advanced care on the way and get an AED onboard and do something, at its very basis, it’s important for people to know.”

“It’s like doing your fellow humans a favor even if you never end up using it.”

GET TRAINED

Red Cross offers a wide range of health and safety classes from CPR and first aid to swimming safety. Learn more and sign up for a class today at redcross.org/takeaclass.

Vols: Several disaster deployments

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was hope. I got kindness and a sense of love, and that’s what I strive to give back.”

BARB LAWRENCE

Barb Lawrence was selected as our Biomedical Services Volunteer Excellence Award winner.

Barb began her Red Cross journey in 2005, when she helped those impacted by Hurricane Katrina by answering phones and processing donation checks.

After the Katrina cleanup ended, Barb began volunteering in her hometown of Kalispell as a blood donor ambassador welcoming donors to blood drives and helping check them in.

At almost 91 years old, she still volunteers at several blood drives a month and has logged more than 1,000 volunteer hours.



Barb Lawrence

JOAN MAINWARING

Joan Mainwaring is this year’s winner of the Volunteer Engagement Award, presented to the most active volunteer in Montana.

Joan joined the Red Cross three years



Joan Mainwaring

ago and this year has volunteered countless hours. She has deployed to many national disasters including in Kentucky, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Oregon and here in Montana.

Joan serves in many capacities including mass care, casework and external relations and has also shared her experiences with other Red Cross volunteers and trained them.



Red Cross of Idaho, Montana and East Oregon CEO Nicole Sirak Irwin, right, and State Farm agent Ashley Bruning McBride speak with a homeowner during our Nampa Sound the Alarm event in June.

Keeping communities safer from home fires

Red Cross volunteers and community partners installed 341 free smoke alarms in four communities across our region in June and made 196 households safer from home fires, significantly exceeding our Sound the Alarm goals.

Teams installed 138 alarms in Browning and were able to get into about 20 percent of the homes in that community. In Nampa, we installed 102 alarms and kept 120 people from home fires. In Idaho Falls, we installed 54 alarms and also made 21 homes safer in Billings.

Look for more information as we plan more Sound the Alarm events across the region this fall.

— Photos by Ken Stanton, Johnnie Sue Elliott and Matt Ochsner



ABOVE: Executive Director Diane Wright, right, and State Farm agents Karen Smith and Nathan Lee go door-to-door in Billings; BELOW: Alexandria Old Chief and Keith Creveling install alarms in Browning.



Nampa Mayor Debbie Kling, blue shirt, and Nampa Fire Chief Kirk Carpenter spoke at the Nampa Sound the Alarm event.



LEFT: First Interstate Bank's Jennifer Smylie and Monisyl Largent, Blackfoot Fire and Rescue firefighter Billy Sharp and Red Cross volunteers Keith Creveling and Landis Meeks in Browning. RIGHT: Nathan Lee installs an alarm in Billings.



Red Cross volunteers and community partners teamed up to install free smoke alarms and share information in Idaho Falls.