

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our Red Cross volunteer workforce engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

- **June 1, [CPR/AED Awareness Week](#)** begins.
- **June 5, [Cancer Survivors Day](#)**
- **June 12, [Women Veterans Day](#)**
- **June 14, World Blood Donor Day.** Schedule an appointment to donate lifesaving blood at [RedCrossBlood.org](#).
- **June 19, [World Sickle Cell Day](#); [Juneteeth](#); Father's Day**
- **June 20, [World Refugee Day](#)**



22

Disaster responses in May.
Clients helped: 79



MILESTONES

June

GARY HERR, 5 years
STEPHEN WALTER 5 years



TO DONATE BLOOD

Visit online
[RedCrossBlood.org](#)
Or call
800-RED-CROSS

Sound the Alarm



Sally Ladd and her family in Philipsburg, Mont., listen to Red Crossers Shellie Creveling, left, and Lori Fons, right, who arrived at their home to install a free smoke alarm.

Free smoke alarms ensuring safety

Sally Ladd and her family were all smiles recently when a Red Cross team arrived at her door offering to install free smoke alarms. “Oh my gosh, it was great,” the mother of three said.

The Philipsburg, Mont., family had a few alarms already, but not necessarily installed in the right places, and a small cooking fire a couple of years ago was a reminder of just how quickly a fire can grow.

“As a mom I feel very moved that you would do something like this,” she said. “I’m grateful for having that feeling of greater safety for me and my family.”

More than 150 families across Montana and Idaho are safer from home fires thanks to communitywide smoke alarm installation events like the one in Philipsburg. As part of the national Sound the Alarm campaign, the Red



Red Cross of Idaho, Montana and East Oregon CEO Nicole Sirak Irwin joins her team in the field in Parma, Idaho.

Cross of Idaho and Montana rallied volunteers, local fire departments and community and tribal partners to come together to help keep their friends, families and neighbors safer from the nation’s most common disaster – home fires.

On average, Red Cross responds to a home fire every day in Idaho and Montana.

Besides Philipsburg, teams also installed alarms in Drummond, Hall and Busby in Montana and Gooding and Parma in Idaho. Combined, these volunteers installed more than 370 free alarms.

“There were several homes that didn’t have any alarms, so they were very appreciative,” said Red Cross volunteer Dennis Becker, who helped out in Gooding, his first Sound the

SEE ALARM, PAGE 3

Blanket inspires donation years later

Chris Phillips was just 5 years old and camping by the lake with his family when the sheriff arrived with some terrible news. Their mobile home was on fire. They rushed home to find their home completely gutted.

“It was just a mess,” Chris said. “It was deep in the fall, and I was out there cold and shivering.”

That’s when volunteers from the Red Cross arrived and gave Chris a blanket – a blanket he will never forget.

“I was so proud of that blanket,” he said. “I thought so much of that blanket because that night it really hit the spot. It was the only thing I had left. I slept under it until I was about 12 or 13 years old when my mother threw it out because it was so threadbare and ragged.”

Now 60 and living in Boise, Chris recently saw that Red Cross was taking part in Idaho Gives, an Idaho Nonprofit Center program that brings the state together to raise money and awareness for Idaho nonprofits. Moved by the kindness he received from the organization 55 years earlier, Chris donated



The remembered comfort of a beloved blanket, a gift from the Red Cross during a time of crisis many years ago, inspired a generous gift decades later.

\$1,000 to the Red Cross, enough money to supply Red Cross with 200 blankets like the one he received that chilly autumn evening.

“I’m just proud that I can donate and help other people who are going through what I went through back

then,” he said.

“When things are really, really bad, the Red Cross is there to help.”

Learn more and support Red Cross disaster relief efforts at [redcross.org/donate](#).

— Matt Ochsner

Volunteer officer promoted

Please join us in congratulating Wendy McGrew, who has transitioned into the role of regional chief operating officer. Wendy has been part of the Idaho Montana region staff since 2015 as the regional volunteer services officer and has managed a team that is responsible for recruitment, engagement and volunteer relations.

Prior to her staff position, Wendy was an active Disaster Cycle Services volun-

teer in the Metro Atlanta Chapter. She deployed numerous times and specialized in staff services, community partnerships and staff relations.

Her service included multiple hurricane operations and Superstorm Sandy.

Wendy is a graduate of Georgia State University with an undergraduate degree in Psychology and a Master of Business Administration in organizational management. She is also a Certi-

fied Volunteer Administrator and a Certified Associate of Project Management.

Wendy and her husband, John, live in Missoula. John is a fiscal review volunteer in Disaster Cycle Services and a communications lead for the Red Cross.

She is replacing Dawn Brossart, who is leaving for a well-deserved post-pandemic rest.

Readying for a busy season

Preparation is under way for an anticipated surge in need, and Red cross is recruiting volunteers to work in shelter service. Check into these opportunities. Also, don't miss Ketchup With Friends, and be sure to respond to the volunteer communication survey.

Read on!


POSITION OF THE MONTH. We are preparing for another extremely busy disaster season. It's critical to have a trained and ready volunteer workforce to make sure we can provide relief at a moment's notice. Inspire hope and spread kindness through action!

Title: Disaster shelter volunteers
Shelter Service Associate — In-person shelter support to assist with reception, registration, feeding, dormitory, information collection, and other vital tasks to help those we serve.

Disaster Health Services Service Associate — Licensed health care professionals provide hands-on care, health education, health assessments, and additional health-related support to shelter residents.

Supervisor roles available for those with previous deployment experience.

Location and Time Commitment: If the need arises, volunteers are asked to

IN THE KNOW

RED CROSS NEWS & HAPPENINGS
commit to multiple local shifts of 4-12 hours each. For those able to travel outside of their local area, a commitment of at least 14 consecutive days, working 8- or 12-hour shifts is required.

To learn more about these positions click on the How You Can Help banner in Volunteer Connection or contact our team by email at IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org

TALK TO US. The world around us right now is pretty crazy. We want to keep you up to date on big changes, but we don't want to overwhelm you with information. Please take our survey and let us know if we are communicating these changes and updates with you in the way – and at the pace – that you prefer.

Below is a link to a survey asking how we should best communicate these breaking news updates with you – i.e. through Volunteer Connection, RED ALERTS, email, etc. – and how often

you would like to receive this information.

We stress this survey is focused on those big breaking news items – like changes to the mask policy.

Please take a few minutes and fill out this quick survey.

https://volunteercornection.redcross.org/?nd=vms_load_form&form_id=10958

KETCHUP WITH FRIENDS.

Please join fellow volunteers at our social time, Tuesday, June 14, from 7:30-8 p.m. One winner will receive a fun summer prize, but you must attend to win. Click [here](#) to join the meeting.

If you join and don't have access, please send Nate Gilbert an email at Nathan.Gilbert@RedCross.org and we will see what we can do to help get you connected.

We hope you can join us this month. See you all there!



Biomed team members honored for excellence



Two leaders from Montana and Idaho were recognized at the American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., recently as two of 20 recipients of Biomedical Services Employee Excellence Awards.

Two top performers bring credit to region

We would like to congratulate two of our Idaho and Montana biomed leaders, Eric Horton and Carmen Madsen.

In April, Carmen, our donor recruitment district manager based in Great Falls, Mont., and Eric Horton, our regional donor services executive based

in Boise, were recognized at the American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., as two of 20 recipients of Biomedical Services Employee Excellence Awards for their stellar work and accomplishments over the past year.

The winners were selected by the biomedical senior executive committee after being recommended by their local committee.

The Idaho and Montana region continues to shine as one of the top biomed performers in the country, ranking at the top or near the top in several categories including customer service, operational efficiency and amount of lifesaving blood products collected toward goal.

Eric and Carmen play a huge role in that success. Congratulations again to Eric and Carmen and our whole team!

Alarm: Partnerships key to success

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Alarm event. “Most of the homes we went to were outside of the city limits so it was quite a ways from where the fire department was, so having smoke alarms was something they really appreciated.”

The Red Cross partnered with the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Nation and the local fire department to install close to 50 free alarms in more than 20 Busby homes in southeastern Montana. Red Cross teams also visited schools in Philipsburg and Drummond in southwest Montana, teaching 200 students how to be prepared in case of an emergency like a fire. They also delivered emergency readiness information to local groups like the Rotary Club.

“When the fire alarm goes off get low and go,” 7-year-old Aida Ladd said, describing one of the important tips she learned from the Red Cross presenters.

Sally Ladd said her kids were super excited to share what they learned with the rest of the family.

“It’s wonderful to have a couple of schoolchildren who came home so jazzed, and they have all these phrases about what to do now if a fire comes,” Sally Ladd said. “I just want to say thank you.”

But the work doesn’t stop here. The Red Cross will continue to collaborate with community partners and its volunteers to install more alarms and share fire safety information as requests come in. They are also partnering with the Nez Perce in northern Idaho to install alarms there.

Nationwide, more than 1,200 lives have been saved by alarms installed during Red Cross home fire safety events. That includes a family in Jerome, Idaho, who escaped their home safely during a 2016 fire just a few months after Red Cross installed free alarms.

Becker said it feels good to know they’re making a difference.

“There’s so much bad stuff that’s always going on it’s nice to be able to help people out to do what we can and do good in today’s world,” he said.

— Matt Ochsner

PASS THE WORD

Idaho

If you know someone in Idaho who needs smoke alarms, please encourage them to visit SoundTheAlarm.org/Idaho or call 800-853-2570, option 1, to schedule an appointment.

Montana

In Montana, visit SoundTheAlarm.org/Montana or call 800-272-6668.



Dennis Becker, green shirt, teams up with a Gooding firefighter to install a smoke alarm in an Idaho home. Red Cross and its partners installed 370 free smoke alarms during the multi-state Sound the Alarm program.



Sally Ladd said her kids “were jazzed” about fire safety after hearing Red Cross presentations in their Philipsburg school.



Preventive program spans region

Smoke alarm events occurred recently in several corners of Montana and Idaho. We appreciate the volunteers who made it happen, and the families who invited us into their homes. **FROM TOP LEFT:** The Northern Cheyenne fire department helped open doors in Busby, Mont.; Diane Wright, Montana Red Cross executive director, and Montana Red Cross board chairman Craig Stahlberg help in Granite County; and volunteer Jennell Van Dyke delivers home fire safety information during a stop in Busby. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Volunteer Liz Bolts helps out in Parma, Idaho. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Keith Creveling installs an alarm in Granite County. (See full story, photos on pages 1 and 3.)

