

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our Red Cross volunteer workforce engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

- **September** – [National Preparedness Month](#)
- **September** – [Sickle Cell Awareness Month](#)
- **Sept. 3-9** – National Blood Collectors Week
- **Sept. 4** – Labor Day
- **Sept. 3-9** – National Suicide Prevention Week
- **Sept. 5** – [International Day of Charity](#)
- **Sept. 10** – National Grandparents Day
- **Sept. 15** – [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) begins
- **Sept. 15** – Rosh Hashanah
- **Sept. 21** – [International Day of Peace](#)
- **Sept. 23** – First day of fall
- **Sept. 24** – Yom Kippur
- **Sept. 24** – [Gold Star Mother's Day](#)



20

Disaster responses in August. Clients helped: 76



MILESTONES

TERRY TIPPERY,
25 years

PAT WALLER,
20 years

RONNA WALLER,
20 years

TOM WOZNAK,
10 years

DAVID GURLEY,
5 years

SANDY HARNAR,
5 years

DEB HAYES,
5 years

DIANA HORNUNG,
5 years

KAREN McLAUGHLIN,
5 years

KIM OCHSNER,
5 years

ZEZE RWASAMA,
5 years

TERI STEIN,
5 years

JOHN TAPP,
5 years



PHOTO BY SCOTT DALTON/AMERICAN RED CROSS

Paul Hicks of Helena organizes air mattresses at the Red Cross warehouse in Wailuku, Hawaii. Paul is one of several volunteers from our region who have deployed recently.

Thanks for rising to the challenge

It's certainly been a busy disaster-filled few months with wildfires, hurricanes (even on the West Coast), and tornadoes, to name a few.

We would like to take a moment and recognize and thank all of our volunteers who have helped families during these extremely tough times here at home and across the country.

So far this summer, we have opened 11 shelters and evacuation centers in our region including in Kalispell, Columbia Falls, Polson, Arlee, Ronan, Plains, Ovando, Pryor and Orofino during wildfires; in Hardin following flooding; and in Helena for a multi-unit apartment fire.

So many volunteers have raised their hands to assist with large national disasters as well, including the devastating Maui wildfires, Typhoon Mawar and tornadoes across the South. Since June 1, more than 40 volunteers from our region have deployed at home and across the country, some of them more than once.

Thank you once again for answering the call and hitting the road when the emergency siren sounds. We know this work is never easy but the impact can't be overstated.



Volunteers John Schlichenmayer, left of Butte, and Andy Shirliff, of Helena, set up cots at a shelter in Helena following a multi-unit apartment fire in August.



Volunteer Debbie Schaefer and Scott Fairfield, of Eureka, help staff a Red Cross shelter in Plains, Mont., for those forced to evacuate because of the River Road East fire.

Outstanding volunteers honored

Three outstanding Red Cross volunteers who go above and beyond time and time again were honored at the Red Cross of Idaho and East Oregon annual board meeting.

DIANNE BRUSH

Dianne Brush, of Pocatello, received the Roy Eiguren Award as the Idaho volunteer for demonstrating exceptional service in supporting the Red Cross mission.

Dianne joined the Red Cross in 2016 as a Pillowcase presenter in elementary schools, teach-

ing these classes as part of her job as the community educator and public information officer for the Pocatello Police Department. She retired after 30 years with police department

in 2019 and soon became a Disaster Action Team member in Bannock County. She is a team coordinator, home fire campaign member and a youth preparedness educator.



Brush

Since March, Dianne has been filling in as the disaster program manager in Eastern Idaho while a paid Red Cross staffer was away on a military assignment.

Prior to her law enforcement career, Dianne worked for 11 years in radio and television broadcasting.

TERESA BROWNING

Teresa Browning, of Idaho Falls, received the Dane Wat-

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Help us install free smoke alarms

Learn about volunteer opportunities, upcoming Sound the Alarm smoke alarms installation events and a big change to the Exchange in this month's In the Know.

SOUND THE ALARM: We have two Sound the Alarm events in our region in October and could use your help installing free smoke alarms in homes and providing home fire safety training to families.

■ **Oct. 20-21** — Meridian, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days

■ **Oct. 27-28** — Butte, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days

To sign up to volunteer at the Butte event visit soundthealarm.org/montana. Visit soundthealarm.org/idaho to sign up to help out in Meridian.

POSITION OF THE MONTH:

Drive to save lives in Montana! Accident and burn victims, heart surgery patients, organ transplant patients and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease may all need blood or platelets.

As a transportation specialist, you are the critical link between blood products getting from donors to the patients who need them.

Montana drivers are needed in the following counties: Cascade, Flathead, Gallatin and Lewis and Clark.

Sign-up for one or more shifts a month that is convenient for you.

Position requires a valid driver's license and clean driving record.

Please sign-up, share, or email IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org for more information about this position.

THE EXCHANGE: The Exchange has been replaced by a new Red Cross intranet system — OneSource.

OneSource will now serve as the go-to hub for one-click access to resources and platforms.

Volunteers will see a new login screen where they can enter their credentials. Note that the URL has changed from intranet.redcross.org to onesource.redcross.org but the old URL

IN THE KNOW



RED CROSS NEWS & HAPPENINGS



Red Cross and its partners will install free smoke alarms in Meridian on Oct. 20-21 and in Butte on Oct. 27-28 and needs volunteers.

will automatically reroute to OneSource.

To learn more and access some helpful resources click [here](#).

BLOOD DECLINE: Red Cross has seen a concerning decrease in blood donations over the past few months and is urging donors to make an appointment to give the gift of life.

Approximately 29,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S. to keep pace with patient need.

A blood donation takes less than an hour from start to finish, and a single donation can save more than one life. Accident victims, cancer patients, expecting moms and many others are counting on us to keep hospital shelves stocked with lifesaving blood products.

Find a drive near you and schedule an appointment today by visiting RedCrossBlood.org and entering your zip code or by calling 800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767).

AMERICORPS: Our region is recruiting six AmeriCorps members to support our mission — three in Yellow-

stone County in Montana and three in the Treasure Valley in Idaho.

AmeriCorps is a national service program, like a domestic Peace Corps. This is a full-time contracted volunteer position for 10.5 months.

These members will focus their service on recruiting and engaging volunteers and educating communities on emergency readiness.

Members will also have the opportunity to assist with local disaster operations.

Members will receive a bi-weekly stipend of \$869 as well as health care and dental coverage.

They are also eligible to apply for SNAP benefits.

They also can earn a \$6,895 education award at the end of their term which can be used toward student loans or future tuition.

If you or someone you know is interested please visit <https://rdcrss.org/3DlxADO> (Idaho) or <https://rdcrss.org/3OgnoYf> (Montana).

Or call Eric Allen (Montana) at 406-320-2229, Barbara Weber (Idaho) at 208-510-732 or Peggy Smith at 208-789-3326.

VOLUNTEER CONNECTION: Do you have questions about Volunteer Connection? The Volunteer Services team will host Volunteer Connection: Open Office Hours two times per month.

Our September office hours will be:

■ Friday, Sept. 22 at 9:30 a.m.

MST. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

■ Thursday, Sept. 28 at 5 p.m.

MST. [Click here to join the meeting](#).

SATISFACTION 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 what we're doing well and where we can improve.

You can share additional feedback anytime by emailing IDMTE-OR.teamwork@redcross.org.



Celebrating our successes

Together, we accomplished some amazing things during the past fiscal year and delivered help and hope to friends and neighbors across our vast region.

To reflect on that success and thank our volunteers, financial supporters, blood donors and partners, we created a pair of videos looking back at all that we achieved. Please take a few minutes and check them out.

Montana video: youtu.be/QEKugQERQTs

Idaho, East Oregon video: youtu.be/s_8kFO1-QyM

Honors: Thousands of hours logged

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kins Exception Volunteer Award, given to the volunteer who logged the most hours in Idaho and East Oregon in the past year. A regional chief duty officer and Disaster Action Team supervisor, Teresa logged an amazing 3,376 hours last year.



Browning

She and her husband own and operate two small businesses in Idaho Falls and have three adult children and two grand-

children. She is an avid fan of the outdoors and hikes and kayaks and is also passionate about mixed martial arts and coaches beginners.

She is proud to volunteer with Red Cross.

"It's one of the few organizations that assists anyone who is experiencing a life-changing challenge," she said.

Judy Bartz

Judy Bartz, of Lewiston, was honored



as the Biomedical Service Volunteer of Excellence Award winner.

She began her Red Cross volunteer journey in Nampa in 2020 as a blood donor ambassador, a role she continued after she moved to Lewiston. She has accumulated 400 hours of volunteer service.

Before she retired, Judy spent time working and traveling all over the world, including the Middle East, where she led programs empowering women to join the workforce in areas where most women were forbidden to work alongside men.