



Badger Chapter Emergency Services Newsletter

December 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 WELCOME NEW ES STAFF
- 1 NOVEMBER DISASTER RESPONSES
- 2 SERVICE TO THE ARMED FORCES
- 3 MLK DAY
- 3 H1N1 CLINICS
- 3 INTERNATIONAL SERVICES
- 4 DISASTER TRAINING
- 4 DSHR WEEK
- 4 FIRE SAFETY TIPS
- 4 IMPORTANT WEBSITES

ES Newsletters

The Emergency Services Department will be sending out monthly newsletters to all volunteers within Emergency Services (Disaster, Service to the Armed Forces, International Services, Disaster Preparedness, etc.). The newsletters will be used to highlight training opportunities, review special events/initiatives, recruit volunteers, and provide general updates. The newsletter will be emailed to all volunteers with email addresses and a paper copy will be mailed to all volunteers without email addresses. If you are receiving a paper copy of the newsletter and you have an email address please contact Kathi Collins, Coordinator of Disaster Volunteers, to update your email address (badgercdv@arcbadger.org or 877-618-6628 ext. 243).

November Disaster Responses

In November 2009, the Disaster Action Teams (DAT) were busy responding to 8 disaster incidents. All of the responses were for fires. **10** cases were opened and assistance was issued to **40** people.

Responses by County

Dane: 4 incidents, 6 cases, 21 people assisted
 Juneau: 1 incident, 1 case, 5 people assisted
 Columbia: 1 incident, 1 case, 2 people assisted
 Grant: 2 incidents, 2 cases, 12 people assisted

*Thank you to all the Disaster Action Team Members who responded and provided assistance.

New Emergency Services Staff

The Emergency Services Department welcomes Annie Taff and Mary Liz Murphy to the Badger Chapter!

Annie Taff, Community Preparedness Specialist
ataff@arcbadger.org
 (608) 227-1415 or (877) 618-6628 ext. 415

Mary Liz Murphy, Service to the Armed Forces Coordinator
mmurphy@arcbadger.org
 (608) 227-1331 or (877) 618-6628 ext. 331



Mary Liz (left) and Annie (right)

Service to the Armed Forces (SAF) Program

SAF GRANT

The Badger Chapter was awarded a grant of \$48,000 from the SAF Department at the national office to expand our Service to the Armed Forces activities. The grant focuses on building capacity to support the Military Families and Military Hospitals programs.

“GET TO KNOW US” PRESENTATION TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The American Red Cross provides briefings to members of the military and their families. These briefings, titled Get To Know Us Before You Need Us, provide service members and their families with valuable information on Red Cross services. The Badger Chapter is looking for volunteers to deliver the Get To Know Us presentations. Are you comfortable speaking in front of groups? Are you interested in supporting members of the military and their families? Than this is the volunteer job for you! Please sign up for one of the two upcoming training sessions.

- **Sat. Dec. 5, 9:00 - 10:30 AM**
- **Wed. Dec. 9, 6:00 - 7:30 PM**

Please contact Mary Liz to register (mmurphy@arcbadger.org or 608-227-1331).

HOLIDAY MAIL FOR HEROES CAMPAIGN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This year the Badger Chapter is participating in the Holiday Mail for Heroes campaign. The public is encouraged to send holiday cards to service members, veterans and their families. All cards are mailed to a central location and are scanned for biohazards by Pitney Bowes (per Department of Defense regulations). Pitney Bowes then boxes the cards and mails them to participating chapters, SAF stations and national headquarters to be sorted and distributed. The Badger Chapter will be receiving 2,000 holiday cards. We are in need of volunteers to assisting in sorting and distributing the cards. There will be a card sorting party on **Thursday, December 17 from 6-8 PM** at the chapter building. Cookies and hot chocolate will be provided! Please contact Mary Liz to volunteer (mmurphy@arcbadger.org or 608-227-1331).

If you would like to send a holiday card to a service member, veteran or family member please send it to:

Holiday Mail for Heroes
PO Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

All cards must be postmarked by December 7.



SAF SPECIAL EVENT

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Sunday, December 13th there is a Reintegration Briefing for Army Reserve family members preparing for the return of their service members. The chapter has been asked to support the youth program and is looking for volunteers to help with arts & crafts, games and other children's activities. At the end of the event we will be distributing holiday gifts to the children. The event runs from 9 AM to 4 PM; volunteers need to be available for a 2 hours shift (minimum). To volunteer for this event please contact Mary Liz (mmurphy@arcbadger.org, 608-227-1331).

Also, if you own a Santa suit that could be used for the gift distribution please contact Mary Liz.



Preparedness in our Communities

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Monday January 18th, 2010, is the nationally recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. MLK Day of Service was initiated by Congress in 1994, to transform the federal holiday honoring Dr. King into a national day of community service. The aim is to bring people of all ages and backgrounds together to improve lives, bridge social barriers, and move our nation closer to the “Beloved Community” that Dr. King envisioned.

On Saturday January 16th, 2010 the American Red Cross – Badger Chapter and HOPE *worldwide* are recognizing MLK Day of Service by sending volunteers into our most vulnerable communities to disseminate information about fire safety and preparedness. Volunteers will go door to door to have conversations with community residents and provide information about smoke alarms, escape plans and how to heat the home safely. This is an excellent opportunity to provide Madison homeowners and renters with home safety tips and to ensure homes are habitable throughout the winter months.

To volunteer for this event, please contact Annie Taff (ataff@arcbadger.org or 608-227-1415). Red Cross certified drivers are especially needed!

H1N1 CLINICS

Dozens of Badger Chapter volunteers helped to make the first rounds of the Public Health-Madison/Dane County H1N1 Clinics a success! Over 6,000 people have been vaccinated at the community clinics. The next community clinic is scheduled for Monday, December 14th from 11 AM to 7 PM. The clinic will be held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. To volunteer for this clinic please contact Annie at ataff@arcbadger.org or 608-227-1415.

International Services Activities

MEASLES INITIATIVE CONTEST

To increase awareness about the Measles Initiative, the American Red Cross organized a school art contests throughout the country. From April 20th to November 13th, inspired elementary, middle and high schools in our area were invited to submit individual works of art in the form of painting, graphic art, photography, pencil or crayon drawings. The theme was “**Celebrating a Child’s Best Shot at a Healthy Life**” – which is based on the Measles Initiative’s efforts to reduce measles deaths worldwide.



The schools that send us art work were: Seneca Elementary, Velma Hamilton Middle School and Madison West High School. The winner in each age group (elementary, middle school, high school) is eligible for local and national prizes.

TEACHING THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS BECOMES A FACEBOOK PETITION

**** ACTION NEEDED****

In observance of the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, the American Red Cross created an online **Facebook petition** to support teaching international humanitarian law in high school classrooms. The petition urges school district superintendents to include the Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) curriculum in secondary schools, to help our nation’s students become more civically engaged and aware of conflict resolution.

Visit <http://bit.ly/redcrosspetition> to sign the petition – and invite your friends and colleagues! With a goal of 20,000 signatures, it will encourage future generations to understand and observe the limits of armed conflict. The Badger Chapter is working with the national headquarters staff to develop a plan for reaching out to certain area schools on the EHL program.



Protect the vulnerable in war!

Sign the petition to teach the Geneva Conventions.

Disaster Training

UPCOMING CLASSES:

Serving Individuals with Disabilities Following a Disaster (Madison office): Sat. Dec. 5, 9 AM-5 PM

Shelter Operations and Shelter Simulation (Madison office):
Sat. Dec. 12, 9 AM-5 PM

Psychological First Aid (Madison office):
Wed. Dec. 16, 5:30-9:30 PM

To register for any of these classes please contact Brad Ladwig (608-227-1254; bladwig@arcbadger.org).

DSHR Week

Mark your calendars for DSHR Week! DSHR Week is an opportunity for all volunteers to complete annual paperwork updates in order to remain an active Disaster Services volunteer. This is also an opportunity to celebrate our DSHR members and the experience they bring to our chapter. This year we will be providing 2 opportunities for volunteers to come to the chapter and complete paperwork.

- **Tues. February 9, 11AM-7PM**
- **Sat. February 15, 10AM-4PM**

More information will be coming soon.

Important Websites

Please subscribe and participate in the American Red Cross social media tools:

- **Red Cross Blog** (blog.redcross.org).
- **DSHR Website** (<https://dshr.redcross.org>)
- **Cross the Globe Podcast** (iTunes Store).
- **Facebook Page** (facebook.com/redcross).
- **Twitter Account** (twitter.com/redcross).
- **Flickr Page** (flickr.com/photos/americanredcross). See high-quality photography from around the world that demonstrates the impact of the Red Cross.
- **YouTube Page** (youtube.com/amredcross). Watch official and unofficial videos with interviews, PSAs and other assorted content that documents the work of the Red Cross.

Be Fire Safe and Red Cross Ready This Holiday Season

The American Red Cross urges families to follow simple safety tips to keep the season merry and to prevent holiday fires. During the winter holiday season the incidence and severity of home fires dramatically increases. In fact, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, each year nearly 47,000 fires occur nationally during the holidays claiming more than 500 lives, causing more than 2,200 injuries, and costing \$554 million in property damage. Many of these fires are caused by home heating sources, unattended cooking, and candles. The Red Cross recommends the following to prevent holiday home fires:

- Keep all potential fuel sources (decorations, evergreen trees, wreaths) at least three feet from heat sources (candles, heat vents, fireplaces, portable heaters and radiators).
- Turn holiday lights off and extinguish candles before leaving the room or going to bed.
- After entertaining guests, walk around your home ensuring that candles and smoking materials are properly extinguished.
- Consider using battery-operated "flameless" candles that are scented and have a flickering effect.
- Keep anything that can catch on fire—pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, and towels or curtains—away from your stove top.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove.
- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets by not linking more than three light strands.
- Ensure that smoke alarms are installed outside of each sleeping area and on each level of your home.
- Use the test button on your smoke alarms to test them once a month and replace batteries once a year.
- Create or review your fire escape plan. Identify two escape routes from every room on your home and choose a convenient meeting place a safe distance from your home. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year with all family members.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!