



**American  
Red Cross**

of Greater Columbus

# NEWS ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

## **American Red Cross Helping Families Affected By Strong Storms and Heavy Rain**

**March 2, 2011** - The American Red Cross is continuing its response today to storms packing strong wind and heavy rain that caused flooding and storm damage throughout Crawford, Crestline, Galion, Fairfield, Licking, Marion and Morrow counties. Red Cross volunteers are in these communities meeting with families whose homes have been damaged, to ensure that their emergency needs are met.

“Red Cross volunteers have been helping these families since the storms hit and will work with them until all their emergency needs are met,” said Michael Carroll, American Red Cross of Greater Columbus C.E.O. “Additional rain is forecasted for this weekend and we are prepared to help residents who are affected, if necessary. We also encourage everyone to brush up on flood safety by downloading our flood safety checklist at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).”

The following is current as of 9 a.m. 3/2/11:

- **Crawford County:**
  - The Red Cross opened an Evacuation Center with no overnight stays. 10 meals were served.
  - Volunteers are conducting damage assessments to determine the emergency needs of those families affected.
- **Galion County:**
  - Volunteers are conducting damage assessments to determine the emergency needs of those families affected.
- **Fairfield County:**
  - The Red Cross estimates 3 homes affected with 1 home with major damage, 1 with minor damage and 1 affected.
  - Volunteers are currently meeting with families affected to determine what emergency needs they have and how best to assist them.
- **Licking County:**
  - The Red Cross estimates 1 home affected with major damage.
  - Volunteers are currently meeting with the family affected to determine what emergency needs they have and how best to assist them.
- **Marion County:**
  - The Red Cross opened a shelter at Dry Lane Construction (376 Dry Lane Road S., La Rue. The shelter had an overnight population of 8 and remains open.
  - The Red Cross estimates 42 homes with minor damage.
  - Volunteers are currently meeting with families affected to determine what emergency needs they have and how best to assist them.
- **Morrow County:**
  - The Red Cross estimates 51 homes affected with 2 homes with major damage, 2 with minor damage and 47 affected.
  - Volunteers are currently meeting with families affected to determine what emergency needs they have and how best to assist them.

Families who have emergency needs as a result of this severe weather should call their local Red Cross office.

### **How the community can help**

- You can help people affected by disasters like this flooding in Ohio by making a donation to support the Red Cross. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance in response to disasters. Visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Contributions may also be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.
- Consider becoming a volunteer in your community so that you are in a better position next time to help those in need. To learn about Red Cross volunteer opportunities, visit <http://columbus.redcross.org>.

The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. Sustained by over 1000 volunteers, the Red Cross provides assistance to more than 500 families each year after home fires and other disasters strike. Last year the organization trained and educated more than 100,000 area residents in vital lifesaving skills like first aid, CPR and how to prepare for emergencies. The Red Cross also sent 600 emergency messages between members of the military and their families. The community transportation program provides rides to medical appointments for seniors and individuals with disabilities, logging nearly 19,000 trips last year. All these programs and more are made possible by the donations of time and money from the greater Columbus community. Michael Carroll is the CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus and Kirt Walker serves as the board chair.

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