



The DIS & DAT News

October 2008

By Joe Phillips, Disaster Services Manager

CHAPTER ASSIGNS DSHR MEMBERS TO HURRICANE GUSTAV

Jennifer Oumarou and her sidekicks, Sandy Matthys and Jeffery Hildenbrandt spent their Memorial Day weekend busily contacting members of the chapter's DSHR (Disaster Services Human Resource) system to see who could accept assignments to work with the National Red Cross on the Hurricane Gustav relief effort. Their hard work paid off with both Dolan



Emergency Response Vehicle feeding of Hurricane Gustav in White Castle Louisiana.

Collins and Jeanie Pennington driving the Heartland Chapter ERV down to Louisiana. Jennie Hovey was the assistant driver for the Cornhusker Chapter's ERV. Jim Johnston was in Texas on a flood operation and was transferred to the Hurricane Gustav relief operation. Also deploying from Omaha were Don Bimes, Harriet Ostler, Arlys Dill, Nicole Meyer, Helene Quigley, Kathy Krzycki, Seleka Nolan, Luke Thomas, and Charlotte Albers.

Ongoing recruitment efforts resulted in Matt Allaire and Johnny Hampton also accepting assignments as of the last week of September.

Our thanks to all of the DSHR members who responded to National's request for help with Hurricane Gustav.

RED CROSS PLEADS FOR HURRICANE DONATIONS

WASHINGTON (AP) –

The American Red Cross is borrowing money to cover its costs from Hurricane Gustav and will probably go deeper into debt as it prepares for three additional storms threatening the United States.

Red Cross vice president of disaster services, Joseph Becker said the agency could spend more than \$70 million feeding and sheltering victims of Hurricane Gustav. "It has raised only \$5 million so far, and donations are trickling in slowly as the public seems to think there wasn't much damage," Becker said at a news conference Thursday on storm preparations. Becker pleaded for donations, saying Gustav wasn't as big as it could have been but still inflicted major damage along the Gulf Coast.

The agency also borrowed money earlier this year as it spent some \$30 million responding to the massive floods in the Midwest

WE NEED TO BE THANKFUL

Jackie Horton, Executive Director of the Dakota Plains Chapter in Mitchell, South Dakota, sent us the following e-mail. We have posted a few of the selected photos in the DIS&DAT.

This was sent to me by one of our volunteers who has an aunt living in the Houston area. This will give you an idea of the strength and size of the hurricane! After seeing these pictures it made me realize how much I have to be thankful for!



RED CROSS RECEIVES NOTE OF THANKS

The following thank you note was received by the chapter and is shared here as a way of thanking all of our disaster volunteers for everything they do for our community.

Dear American Red Cross,

Early morning on July 25th, 2008 our family was woken to a fire in Lionshead Apartments. As you know, we were in shock, disbelief and unsure as to what we needed to do next. Your volunteers were the first to provide us that initial direction. You assisted with providing us immediate supplies and kindness as well as monetary funds so we could purchase items we needed to function over the next few days immediately following the fire. We wanted to thank you for what you did that night and what you do every day.

s/s The Barnes Family

To each of our volunteers – thank you all for everything you do for our community to make disasters a little less disastrous for the families you come in contact with.

OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH



Fall is my favorite time of the year and one of my fondest memories of the fall would be related to school time activities - especially fire prevention week. As a youngster in the primary grades it was always exciting to see the fire truck show up in front of our school, and to watch the firefighters come into the building. They would activate the fire alarm bells in the building and we would all march out of the building in single file lines under the watchful eyes of our teachers and the firefighters.

The highlight of the event would always been when the teachers passed out Junior Fire Marshall hats and sent us home with fire safety information for our parents. I'm not all that sure our parents were as thrilled as we were because it usually resulted in us kids badgering our folks about fire safety issues in our homes. But the importance of home fire safety is expressed by some of the following statistics taken from the National Fire Protection Association.

- A fire breaks out in a home every 83 seconds
- Children playing with fire have started more than 40,000 home fires
- Despite home fires being the most common disaster in the United States only 25% of American families have developed and practiced a fire escape plan
- On average, 1 out of 4 residences on any given street does not have a working smoke detector

While our homes should be a safe haven, more people die in fires than in hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and all other natural disasters combined. Checking regularly for home fire hazards should be a 12-month a year activity to make sure our homes remain a “safe haven” from the most common disaster experienced in the U.S.



VOLUNTEER RESPONSES IN JUNE 2008 <u>52</u>	TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS GIVEN IN JUNE 2008 <u>189</u>
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THE BOX SCORE June 2008*	
RESPONDED TO: ❖ 17 INCIDENTS INITIATED: ❖ 20 CASES SERVED: ❖ 69 PEOPLE	FINANCIALLY ASSISTED ❖ 9 FAMILIES COMMITTED DOLLARS OF RELIEF ❖ \$7,156.00 IN DIRECT DISASTER RELIEF

*Does not include any of nationally funded disaster relief activity which occurred in the chapter's jurisdiction in June 2008

OCTOBER DIS & DAT CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																
<p>If you are unable to volunteer for the day you signed up for or would like to volunteer extra days please page the supervisor on duty.</p> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Peter McDonald</td><td>444-2021</td></tr> <tr><td>Phyllis Andrews</td><td>444-2574</td></tr> <tr><td>Ane Tillotson</td><td>444-2579</td></tr> <tr><td>Joey Bendorf</td><td>348*4483</td></tr> <tr><td>Jennie Hovey</td><td>977-1926</td></tr> <tr><td>Daniel Edwards</td><td>271-1197</td></tr> <tr><td>Jason Ziebold</td><td>444-0013</td></tr> <tr><td>Jennifer Oumarou</td><td>271-8988</td></tr> </table>			Peter McDonald	444-2021	Phyllis Andrews	444-2574	Ane Tillotson	444-2579	Joey Bendorf	348*4483	Jennie Hovey	977-1926	Daniel Edwards	271-1197	Jason Ziebold	444-0013	Jennifer Oumarou	271-8988	<p>1</p> <p>Michael Broughton Joan Bowden Jennie Hovey Verlan R Linda Houser Liz Clausen Mike Clark</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Supervisor Jennie Hovey</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Sue Severin Michael Brought Jennie Hovey Verlan R Linda Houser Mike Clark</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Supervisor Ane Tillotson</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Natalie Perkins Michael Brought. Joan Bowden Jennie Hovey Verlan R Linda Houser Sue Severin Barb Long Rob Buchholz Liz Clausen Mike Clark</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Supervisor Phylis Andrews</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Issa Oumarou Michael Brought Sue Severin Jennie Hovey Verlan R Linda Houser Mike Clark</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Supervisor Ane-Phylis / Jen Oumarou</p>
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