



American Red Cross

Central Prairie Chapter

Serving Morgan, Cass, Scott, and Greene Counties

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

A newsletter of the American Red Cross Central Prairie Chapter

Spring 2011

Flood and Tornado Season Has Arrived



While Spring and Summer brings warmer weather and sunshine, it also brings a heightened possibility for floods and tornados in Central Illinois. Each year, the Central Prairie Chapter assists local families who suffer from these sometimes sudden and devastating disasters. By being prepared for such natural disasters ahead of time, you'll know what to do if the time comes to act. Now is the time get a kit, make a plan, and be informed - and the American Red Cross offers some basic flood and tornado preparedness tips to help you get ready for whatever the coming months may bring. To learn more disaster preparedness tips, visit www.redcross.org.

Flood Safety

- Listen to area radio and television stations and a NOAA Weather Radio for possible flood warnings and reports of flooding in progress or other critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS).
- Look into getting flood insurance - standard homeowner's insurance doesn't cover it.
- Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- When a flood or flash flood warning is issued for your area, head for higher ground and stay there. Try to have an Emergency Preparedness Kit on hand to bring with you.
- Stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around and go another way. Six inches of swiftly moving water can sweep you off of your feet.
- If you come upon a flooded road while driving, turn around and go another way. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground. Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of moving water.
- Keep children out of the water, it might be contaminated!
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood-related dangers.

Tornado Safety

- Watch for tornado danger signs like dark, often greenish clouds, a cloud of debris, large hail, a funnel cloud, which is a visible rotating extension of the cloud base, and a roaring noise.
- Pick a safe room in your home where household members and pets may gather during a tornado. This should be a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.
- If no underground shelter or safe room is available, a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building is the safest alternative. Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes or other severe winds. If you have access to a sturdy shelter or a vehicle, abandon your mobile home immediately. Go to the nearest sturdy building or shelter immediately, using your seat belt if driving. Do not wait until you see the tornado.
- If you are driving near a tornado and encounter flying debris - pull over and park. Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows.
- If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.

A Friendly Message from the Executive Director



Alison Yordling,
Executive Director,
Central Prairie
Chapter

You might not know it, but May 16 marks the Central Prairie Chapter's 94th birthday! Ever since we became a local affiliate of the American Red Cross in 1917, the Chapter has been helping Morgan, Cass, Scott, and Greene counties prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters and offering other important community services. This has all been made possible through generations of hard work from our dedicated volunteers and the generosity of our donors. In the spirit of celebration, I want to say thank you to everyone involved with making our Chapter a success. Here's to another 94 years of making a difference!

To become a volunteer, please call 217-243-6641

Recent Happenings at the Chapter



The Chapter held its very first Pet First Aid class on March 19 at Pet Supplies Plus in Jacksonville. Participants learned how to respond to a variety of pet-related injuries and had the chance to practice on a dog manikin (shown above).



Employees from Illinois Road Contractors took a CPR/AED/First Aid Course at the Chapter in March.

Pictured: David Dummire, Kenny Waters, Bo Retherford, Rich Krobe, Michelle Smith, Rose Woosley, Kimberly Hyde, Daryle Fair, and Linda Mueller, Red Cross Volunteer Instructor

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 LOCAL SERVICES,
 LOCALLY FUNDED



Upcoming Classes and Events

Central Prairie Chapter Night Golf Scramble: Northridge Hills Golf Course, 1265 Sandusky Road, Jacksonville, Friday, June 17, 8:00 p.m.

American Red Cross Swimming Lessons: Nichols Park, \$45 per child per session, \$35 for each additional sibling. East Vandalia Road, Jacksonville, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

*Session 1: June 20– July 1, Session 2: July 4 - July 15, Session 3: July 18 - July 29.

Parent/Toddler Swim Class: Nichols Park, Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:15 p.m., between July 5 - July 28.

Adult CPR/AED Training: May 19, June 23, July 14, August 11, September 15.

Infant and Child CPR Training: May 24, June 28, July 19, August 16, September 20.

First Aid Training: May 26, June 30, July 21, August 18, September 22.

Unless noted otherwise, all classes take place at the Central Prairie Chapter, 700 N. Prairie, Jacksonville. Call 217-243-6641 for class fees and to register.



Next Generation of CPR/AED Begins



As of March 31, the “Next Generation” of American Red Cross CPR/AED training began to be implemented throughout the country. A recent Red Cross survey shows that 1 in every 4 people say they have been in a situation where someone needed lifesaving CPR. The updated program incorporates the latest science and now offers:

- 2-year certification with free digital refreshers.
- Choice of free digital or affordable print course materials.
- Concise, learner-centered course offering more hands-on skill practice.
- An online learning center that allows individuals to register for courses and instructors to manage course records and print certificates.

Visit us online at www.il-redcross.org/centralprairiechapter