



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 16, 2005

Local Red Cross Chapter Responds to Fire at Pioneer Motel

Springfield, IL: The Illinois Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross responded to a fire on Saturday, November 12 at the Pioneer Motel.

The fire displaced fourteen families, 38 individuals. The Illinois Capital Area Chapter activated eight staff members in response to the incident, including four Disaster Action Team (DAT) caseworkers, two health services workers, one public affairs representative and one operations management representative.

On Saturday the chapter opened cases to provide for the emergency needs of the clients, including providing assistance for food, clothing and shelter. The chapter will continue sending mental health workers and caseworkers to meet with the individuals and families affected to establish recovery plans.

The Illinois Capital Area Chapter responds to a disaster every three days somewhere in our community. On average, each year the Red Cross responds to more than 90 disaster incidents, providing more than \$90,000 in direct relief to families.

“We are grateful to have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those affected by the fire; however, it is the community who makes what we do possible,” said Jenny Antonacci, Community Relations Manager for the Illinois Capital Area Chapter. “By supporting your local Red Cross chapter, you give the greatest gift of all...*hope*.”

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. To help the Red Cross continue to save lives, contributions can be made to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund by calling 522-3357. Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may also be sent to the Illinois Capital Area Chapter P.O. Box 1058, 1025 South Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62705-1058.

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