

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## ***UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: WORLD TRADE CENTRE AND PENTAGON EXPLOSIONS***

*11 September, 2001*

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*This Information Bulletin is intended for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this stage.*

### ***The Disaster***

In an apparent terrorist attack, an American Airlines Boeing 767 (Flight 11) from Boston and another unidentified aircraft crashed into both of the World Trade Center towers in New York City. Both towers collapsed soon after the impact. In Washington an aircraft also crashed into the Department of Defense Pentagon, causing a fire and forcing the evacuation of the building, a section of which later collapsed. The incidents occurred between approximately 0900 and 1000 EDT. Yet another plane thought to be a 747 jumbo jet crashed outside Pittsburgh, about an hour after the Pentagon crash. It remains unclear if this crash is related to the others. The Federal Aviation Administration has reportedly shut down all airports in the nation. There was no immediate word on injuries or fatalities in the World Trade Center disasters.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The Disaster Response Unit of the American Red Cross was immediately activated, and a response is underway in conjunction with other disaster services. American Red Cross personnel are on the way to New York. All American Red Cross staff at National Headquarters in D.C. are on a state of alert. While details remain sketchy as to what has actually occurred, the Red Cross has activated its Aviation Incident Response (AIR) Team to respond in New York City, and trained disaster workers from the American Red Cross of Greater New York and the National Capitol Chapter in Washington, D.C. are providing relief in the affected areas. Made up of leadership teams from all Red Cross disaster relief functions, the AIR Team responds when activated through the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996. This act charged the National Transportation Safety Board with designating an organization to provide for the emotional needs of victims, family members and rescue workers. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) selected the American Red Cross because of its nationally recognized mental health counseling program. A representative from the Keystone Chapter in Johnston, Pennsylvania, (the chapter closest to the plane crash outside Pittsburgh) also said that a disaster action team has been mobilized. Additionally, meals are being prepared to be distributed to relief workers and victims at the scene.

Approximately 80,000 blood donations in the American Red Cross blood inventory are ready to ship to affected areas, and will ensure that patients' lives are saved. The American Red Cross has advised and encouraged donations of blood to replenish the nation's blood supply. "The American Red Cross is doing everything we can to ensure the immediate availability of the safest possible blood," said Dr. Bernadine Healy, president and CEO of

the American Red Cross. "We are also dispatching hundreds of trained disaster workers and mental health counselors to New York, Washington D.C. and elsewhere," she added.

## *Needs*

The Federation President and Secretary General as well as several National Societies have written to the American Red Cross to express their condolences. The Disaster Response Unit of the American Red Cross informed the Disaster Management and Coordination Division at the Secretariat that no external support is required at this stage. The American Red Cross will keep the Federation Secretariat posted on the situation as it evolves.

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