

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

14 September, 2001

Information Bulletin N° 03

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 a deliberate act of terrorism, on 11 September at between 08:45 and 09:05 EDT, an American Airlines Boeing 767 (Flight 11) from Boston and another large passenger 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 (the Pentagon), causing a fire and forcing the evacuation of the building, a section of which later collapsed. Yet another plane (United Airlines Flight 93) crashed in Somerset County, Pennsylvania (southeast of Pittsburgh), about half an hour after the Pentagon crash. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) subsequently diverted all incoming flights into the U.S., then shut down all airports in the nation.

In the aftermath of the disaster search and rescue efforts continued in both Washington and New York. The list of people missing in New York is approaching 5,000 (with thousands more unaccounted for estimates indicate that the death toll may climb as high as anywhere between 10,000 and 15,000). In Washington nearly 200 people are believed dead. All 45 people aboard the jet that crashed in Pennsylvania died.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

At the request of the White House Wednesday, the Red Cross confirmed that it will continue its massive blood collection effort throughout the country, where thousands of volunteers have given blood since the terrorist attacks. Through its unique national system, the Red Cross regularly ships blood from areas of the country where there is excess, to areas of greatest need. Already, more than 1,000 donations have been distributed to New York City and New Jersey hospitals to ensure all patients' needs are met. On Tuesday and Wednesday, more than 120,000 people donated blood; on a normal day, the Red Cross collects about 25,000 blood donations system-wide.

New Mental Health Documents for Children: The Red Cross recognizes that families and children will need some assistance in dealing with their emotional reactions to the terrorist attacks in the coming days, weeks and months. Four documents have been developed to assist Red Cross representatives in providing information to families and children who are concerned about the recent terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, DC.

The new Disaster Mental Health documents are:

- *American Red Cross Guide for Families Affected By Transportation Disasters*

<<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/transportation.html>>

- *Helping Young Children Cope With Trauma*

<<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/childtrauma.html>> --
children in the target audience.

- *When Bad Things Happen*

<<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/badthings.html>> --

- *Why Do I Feel Like This?*

<<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/terror.html>> --

These publications are available for direct download from the Internet in two forms: as PDF files and as downloadable MS-Word files. Regardless of the format, the documents are the same; they are provided in different formats to enable you to use them by whatever method works best for you. The links to the web locations for the documents are provided above.

Internet Fraud Policy:

The American National Red Cross is aware that false Red Cross web sites and e-mail campaigns directing donations to sites other than those authorized by the American Red Cross have begun to appear. They have also learned of a number of web sites soliciting donations, allegedly on our behalf. Red Cross Internet Fraud procedures<http://www.redcross.org/press/mediarel/me_pr/010913fraud.html> have been posted on CrossNet to aid chapters with concerns.

Canadian Red Cross (CRC)

The CRC is busy caring for approximately 30,000 stranded travelers that were diverted to Canada by the events in the U.S. The CRC has established 20 emergency shelters and has been providing emergency feeding, disaster tracing, and basic care and comfort. The CRC is working closely with American Red Cross.

Needs

Offers of in-kind assistance: The outpouring of generosity from corporate partners and communities has been tremendous and the time and effort made to review in-kind offers and forward them to the American Red Cross as appropriate is appreciated. It is understood that this is a high visibility situation and people are anxious to assist, however, the volume of in-kind offers received at this point is more than can be immediately utilized or considered. At this time, most of the current in-kind needs for the American Red Cross are being met for the emergency phase efforts in response to the terrorist attacks. As needs change frequently, there may be additional requests as activities move into the recovery phase of the relief operations. The Greater New York Chapter of the American Red Cross has also asked that in-kind offers not be forwarded directly to their chapter as they have received an enormous volume of offers and their needs have been met at this time.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i
Relationship Management Department

Jean Ayoub
Director
Disaster Management Coordination