

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 ATTACKS

17 September, 2001

Information Bulletin N° 04

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 over the weekend in both Washington and New York. Over 5,000 people are listed as missing in both cities.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The American Red Cross is addressing the immediate disaster relief needs of survivors, the families of victims, and rescue workers. As of 15 September, the following actions had been undertaken or items distributed:

Health Service Contacts	2,646
Mental Health Contacts	13,616
Family Well-being Inquiries	4,336
Service Delivery Sites (to 17/09)	42
Shelters Open (to 17/09)	61
Shelter Population - Period	3,260
Meals/Snacks Served (to 17/09)	828,551
Disaster Workers (to 17/09)	12,550
Volunteers Included Above (to 15/09)	12586
Emergency Response Vehicles (ERV's)	70

assigned (to 17/09)	
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Trained Red Cross relief personnel have fanned out across New York, around the Pentagon, in Somerset County, Pennsylvania and other areas where people have been affected by Tuesday's devastating attacks-Boston, Newark, Los Angeles, San Francisco and elsewhere. For more disaster messaging, visit <https://corpweb.redcross.org/ds/terrorism/091101.html> <<https://corpweb.redcross.org/ds/terrorism/091101.html>> .

The American Red Cross is maintaining America's blood supply. On Tuesday and Wednesday (11 and 12 September), more than 120,000 people donated blood-surpassing the normal daily collection of 25,000 donations system-wide. Because of the overwhelming volume of people wanting to donate blood, many collection centers are operating with additional staff and extended hours. Satellite collection sites are being established around the country so that to the extent possible, the American Red Cross is accommodating blood donors. Blood collection continues as the blood needs for other blood centers, hospitals, and the military is met. 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. Donors are being urged to schedule a blood donation appointment in the weeks and months ahead.

America is in the process of grieving, and more than 1,000 Red Cross chapters in communities nationwide are open 24 hours until further notice to welcome all Americans to mourn together, to pray, to grieve, to receive caring emotional comfort, to comfort each other and to begin to help.

The American Red Cross embraces the fundamental principles of the international Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. These principles of Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality are adhered to by more than 175 Red Cross and Red Crescent societies worldwide. The American Red Cross urges Americans to adopt these sacred humanitarian principles and apply them to their neighbors regardless of race, religion or national heritage.

Needs

The recovery from Tuesday's attacks will take months, and while the healing has begun there may be more suffering ahead and the American Red Cross is planning and preparing for that eventuality. A Mercy Battalion is being formed consisting of thousands of medical professionals including doctors, nurses, other medical personnel and compassionate people who can help others grieve and heal. These priorities - disaster relief, a safe and adequate blood supply, grief and healing support for all Americans, and preparing for disasters the future may bring - are being funded through the gracious financial donations of the American public. Further support can be provided through a secure online donation at www.redcross.org

The American Red Cross has not requested any external assistance so far.

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