

News Release



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For Immediate Release:

DeKalb County Red Cross DAT Volunteers Lend a Helping Hand to Other Chapters

September 3, 2010 – The DeKalb County American Red Cross’s Disaster Action Team (DAT) has recently been very active even though DeKalb County hasn’t had any fires or floods. Under the strong leadership of the chapters Emergency Service Director, Dean Richardson and Nancy McMenamain, Assistant Director, our Disaster Action Team (DAT) volunteer’s are experienced and well prepared for disasters. When the recent floods in late July hit towns in the North West parts and Chicago our DAT team stepped up and volunteered to help. Richardson and Nancy McMenamain headed to Freeport with other DAT volunteers Tracy Lesiak and Paul McMenamain to help the Freeport Red Cross Chapter set up and staff the shelter there. Near by, Thomson also needed staff at their shelter and so Richardson and Lesiak went there to volunteer their time.

The next weekend there was still need for more volunteers to help with assessments, and provide flood victims with much needed money for clothes, food, and shelter. DeKalb DAT volunteers Nancy & Paul McMenamain, as well as Steven Ludwig headed to Freeport while Richardson and Lesiak went into the suburbs of Chicago to Maywood and Bellwood. “It was great to work with other chapters and get some more experience with sheltering and assessments,” said Dean Richardson, Director of Emergency Services, “DeKalb County hasn’t had to open up a shelter since the floods of 2007, so it gave us some idea of the things our chapter needs to have on hand for a sheltering operation.”

Most recently another DAT volunteer, George Greene was called out to New York to help with the National Disaster, Hurricane Earl. Greene has special Red Cross training with an Emergency Communications Response Vehicle (ECRV). A few of our most experienced and well trained DAT members have been put on call for Hurricane Earl, and could be sent out to help if need be.

Having a well trained and experienced DAT team is essential in times of disaster. “We are very proud of the DeKalb County American Red Cross’s DAT team,” said Richardson, “We have 27 trained and active DAT volunteers that are on call for fires and disasters throughout the County, and willing to help out nationally if need be.”

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