

News Release



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For Immediate Release:

DeKalb County Red Cross DAT Volunteers Head to Chicago for Large-Scale Evacuation at Soldier Field

September 28, 2010 – The DeKalb County American Red Cross’s Disaster Action Team (DAT) members are volunteering for our Regional Chapter, Greater Chicago’s large-scale evacuation exercise on Friday October 1st. Our Emergency Service Director, Dean Richardson and Nancy McMenam, Assistant Director believe this will give the chapters volunteers first-hand experience and help them to better prepare in the event of a large scale disaster.

American Red Cross of Greater Chicago Disaster Services will be supporting this large-scale evacuation exercise with the Office of Emergency Management & Communications and other emergency services agencies. 550 individuals from the Aon Building located in downtown Chicago will undergo a simulated evacuation and be transported to Soldier Field on Friday in this scenario. This will be a live-action drill in which all 550 “evacuees” will go through the registration and triage process of an actual evacuation event. The Red Cross of Greater Chicago called for 27 volunteers to help with registration, health services and shelter assignment for this drill, and the DeKalb DAT team volunteers stepped up. There will be seven volunteers including the Director and Assistant Director of Emergency Services volunteering for the planned evacuation.

“Knowledge learned from planned evacuations will greatly increase the American Red Cross of this region’s capability and efficiency in the event of a large evacuation”, said Dean Richardson, Director of Emergency Services at the Red Cross in DeKalb. Having a well trained and experienced DAT team is essential in times of disaster. “We have a strong DAT team,” said Richardson, “We have 27 trained and active DAT volunteers that are always on call for fires and disasters throughout the County, and trained to help out nationally if need be.”

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