



**American
Red Cross**

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NEWS RELEASE

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RED CROSS COMMENDS GOVERNOR ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE

Three weeks ago and in the wake of recent disasters at home and in the South, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle called together the state's partners in emergency preparedness, directing a review of Wisconsin's capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters.

Today, the governor released his report to the citizens of Wisconsin.

"The citizens of Wisconsin can take great pride and comfort in the knowledge that Governor Doyle has called for, and received, a thorough review of Wisconsin's emergency preparedness," said Sandy Lampman, CEO of the American Red Cross Badger Chapter.

"The Red Cross and Wisconsin Emergency Management have been strong partners in the mission of preparing for and responding to disasters in our state," she continued.

"And, although we are confident the state has strong plans and programs in place, we commend Governor Doyle for his leadership in calling us to action and pro-actively challenging all of us to strengthen our capacity and learn from the lessons of Katrina."

Several features of the report are particularly relevant to the Red Cross mission: to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

- The report highlights the importance of individual preparedness. Red Cross community disaster education, first aid, CPR training and blood donation can help mitigate the effects of a disaster.
- The critical function of Red Cross and other volunteers in the response and recovery phase of disasters is acknowledged in the report. The Governor and Wisconsin Emergency Management are committed to supporting the Red Cross goal of training 1000 new Wisconsin Red Cross volunteers by December 31.

"With the support of Governor Doyle, Major General Wilkening and the people of Wisconsin, we are confident we will achieve that goal" concluded Lampman.

The local Badger Chapter of the American Red Cross serves residents in Dane, Iowa, Sauk, Richland, and Lafayette counties as well as the Lake Mills area of Jefferson County. For more information about the Badger Chapter, please call 233-9300 or visit the chapter website at www.arcbadger.org

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