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## Media Alert

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### For Immediate Release

#### **Cape Cod and Islands Chapter American Red Cross Organizes Disaster Preparedness Presentation on June 9th at Falmouth Public Library**

Hyannis, MA, May 30th, 2011 - The Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, American Red Cross and Falmouth Public Library have teamed up to organize a Disaster Preparedness Presentation for the general public. The presentation is free of charge and will be held at Falmouth Public Library, located on 300 Main Street, Falmouth MA on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and starts at 10:00 a.m. Registration is not needed.

Hurricane season starts June 1st and based upon the recent tornadoes and floods, it's essential to be prepared for any disaster or local emergency. Andrea Brown, AmeriCorps Cape Cod volunteer with the American Red Cross will discuss how to prepare for hurricane season, pack your disaster bag, create your own emergency escape plan, as well as information on the current local regional sheltering plan.

The **American Red Cross** is the nation's foremost emergency response organization, offering neutral humanitarian care to the victims of war and devastating natural disasters as well as local disasters such as fires, Hazardous Materials accidents and more, providing victims of these disasters with shelter, food and emotional support. Today, in addition to domestic disaster relief, the American Red Cross offers compassionate services in five other areas: **community services** for affected victims after a disaster; **support and comfort for military members and their families** including **emergency messaging**; the **collection, processing and distribution of lifesaving blood and blood products**; **educational programs** that promote health and safety; and **international relief and development** programs.

The Red Cross is not a government agency and does not receive federal or state funding. Local Chapters do receive some human resource support from the American Red Cross Headquarters, however, each Chapter is responsible for raising adequate funds to support all of its activities, including recruiting and training volunteers, and teaching life saving skills within its geographical coverage area. It relies on donations of time, money, and blood from the American public to successfully do its work.

The Cape Cod and Islands Chapter was founded in 1917 to serve the residents of and visitors to Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

To find out more about disaster preparedness presentations on Cape Cod and the Islands, about volunteering for the Red Cross, for class schedules, for disaster preparedness information in English, Spanish or Portuguese, or to donate, please contact the American Red Cross, Cape Cod Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601, call (508) 775-1540 ext. 21 or visit [www.cciredcross.org](http://www.cciredcross.org)

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