



FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

**Note, not for publication:** Gene Tully is available for interviews at: ( 508) 305-1375

## **Red Cross Deploys Gene Tully of Dennis to Memphis to Support the Western Tennessee Flood Relief Efforts**

HYANNIS --- Gene Tully of Dennis has deployed to Memphis, Tennessee Mississippi in support of the Red Cross Disaster Relief Efforts after the deadly tornadoes affected the area.

Gene will act as a Sheltering Supervisor and is expected to stay in Tennessee for two weeks in the area. Gene has supported State relief efforts before but this is his first National Relief effort.

Gene Tully is the 13th Red Cross volunteer in the Eastern Massachusetts area who is deploying and he is one of more than 5,000 Red Cross disaster workers who have been deployed to help the people affected by the devastating tornadoes, floods and wildfires which have left widespread damage across the south. The volunteers are working around the clock, providing people with shelter, meals, counseling and supplies to help with clean-up efforts. The Red Cross is helping people today and will still be helping them in the weeks ahead as they try to get back on their feet.

The Red Cross is gearing up to respond to major flooding along the Mississippi River even as more than 5,000 Red Cross workers continue to help the thousands of people in tornado-ravaged neighborhoods across the South.

Potentially catastrophic flooding could occur next week along the Mississippi River, and the Red Cross is sending in leadership teams, calling down disaster workers, and pre-positioning supplies to respond to any flooding. Forecasters warn that flood waters could remain in areas for as long as two weeks, forcing thousands of people to stay in shelters for more than a month.

Thousands of cots, blankets and comfort kits are en route to the area. Mississippi River flooding forced nearly 300 people to seek refuge in shelters in northwest Tennessee Thursday night. Another 950 people spent Thursday night in Red Cross shelters across the South. Shelters are open in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Missouri, Mississippi, Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky and North Carolina.

Early estimates show more than 13,000 homes across six states were destroyed or damaged during the recent tornadoes.

The Red Cross has launched 20 separate relief operations over more than half of the United States since March 31 responding to disasters from North Dakota to the East Coast and all throughout the South. ....

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Since the end of March, the Red Cross has:

- Served hundreds of thousands meals and snacks with the help of community partners.
- Opened more than 145 shelters and provided more than 12,000 overnight stays.
- Handed out hundreds of thousands of relief items like hygiene kits, mops, brooms, tarps, shovels, work gloves and coolers.
- Provided nearly 12,000 health and mental health consultations.
- Moved more than 1,200 blood products to the area to ensure hospital patients' blood needs are met.
- Deployed 158 Red Cross emergency response vehicles to help distribute meals and clean-up items throughout the affected neighborhoods. Ten are on their way to Tennessee to support the flooding response there.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help people affected by disasters like tornadoes, as well as countless crises at home and around the world, by making a donation to support American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance in response to disasters. Visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Contributions may also be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P. O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

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