

For Immediate Release*Media Alert*
MEDIA ALERT**Jenn Carlson-Benoit Earns Certified Emergency *Manager* ^(R) Credential**

June 27th, 2010, Hyannis, MA – Jenn Carlson-Benoit from South Yarmouth has just earned her Certified Emergency Manager ^(R) (CEM) ^(R) credential. The (CEM) ^(R) designation is the highest honor of professional achievement available from the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), which has in its membership more than 4,500 emergency managers, representing local, state and federal government; private industry; and military emergency managers.

Jenn Carlson-Benoit is now one of only 1,519 Certified Emergency Managers ^(R) in the nation. To earn this accreditation, she had to submit an extensive credentials package, a management essay and a written examination. The credentials requirements include experience, references, education, training and contributions to the profession. the management essay requires respondents to submit a response to a scenario they might face while fulfilling emergency management responsibilities. To maintain certification, (CEM) ^(R) recipients must submit additional training and contributions to the profession every five years.

Jenn is the Director of Emergency Services with the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, American Red Cross. As such she manages approximately 300 disaster volunteers, across five areas (zones), Upper Cape, Mid Cape, Lower Cape, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

Jenn worked as the Operations Director in Haverhill during the recent flood relief efforts. A number of local volunteers supported these, and responders deployed to help from more than 10 states across the country, from as far away as California. She just came back from training at the National American Red Cross Disaster Operations Center for two weeks.

The American Red Cross is charged by Congress to respond to disasters, free of charge to those affected and is also instrumental in educating the public in life saving skills and disaster preparedness. However, it does not receive government funding and is totally dependent upon the voluntary donations of time and money from the American public .

For more information about disaster preparedness and relief efforts, training, volunteering, or to make a donation, please contact the American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter at 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601. Internet users can make a secure online contribution at cciredcross.org or call (508) 775-1540.