



Note, not for publication: Joe Wall is available for interviews at: (774) 209-9270.

Red Cross Deploys Joe Wall of Harwich to Joplin, Missouri to Support with Tornado Relief Efforts

HYANNIS --- Joe Wall of Harwich is deploying to Joplin, Missouri in support of the Red Cross Disaster Relief Efforts after the deadly tornadoes affected the area. He will be working with those individuals and families who have been affected. Joe Wall is one of two volunteers in the Eastern Massachusetts area who is deploying to Missouri and he is one of thousands of Red Cross disaster workers who have been deployed to date to help the people affected by the devastating tornadoes, floods and wildfires which have left widespread damage in the Midwest and the South.

The continuing attack of deadly tornadoes is taking its toll on communities across the Midwest and the Red Cross is on the ground, providing critical support to those affected. All of our thoughts and sympathies are with everyone who has lost loved ones or suffered through this seemingly endless stream of deadly spring weather.

Relief work continues in Joplin, Missouri with food, shelter and other support.

The Red Cross is also responding in other areas as tornadoes continue to batter the middle of the country.

In just the last week, the Red Cross has started five new disaster operations in response to tornadoes in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota and Wisconsin while simultaneously continuing to help people in the South affected by flooding and last month's tornados.

More than 350 people in Joplin sought refuge in Red Cross shelters Wednesday night. The Red Cross is feeding people in the shelters and distributing meals throughout the affected neighborhoods.

Teams of Red Cross mental health workers are helping people cope in the aftermath of the deadly May 22 tornado.

Emergency response vehicles are distributing meals, comfort items like toothbrushes and soap, as well as clean-up materials like coolers, rakes, tarps, gloves and trash bags, even stuffed animals for the kids. Health services staff at emergency aid stations are assessing people's health needs and helping with things such as lost prescriptions and eye glasses.

With reports from local officials indicating a large number of people are still missing in Joplin, the Red Cross encourages everyone affected by the disaster to register on the Safe and Well website by visiting www.redcross.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). From a smart phone, visit www.redcross.org/safeandwell and click on the "List Yourself as Safe and Well" or "Search for Friends and

Family” link. Friends and family outside the disaster area can use the site to search for messages from their loved ones by using a pre-disaster phone number or complete address. Safe and Well also enables disaster survivors to update their Facebook and Twitter status through the website.

The need is great for emotional support in these states. These areas have been hit by multiple disasters over the past year, and trained Red Cross mental health workers are helping people cope with these tragedies.

The Red Cross has shelters open for people affected by disasters in Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Alabama, Minnesota, Montana, Tennessee, Mississippi and New York.

Since the end of March, the Red Cross has launched 30 large disaster responses across 23 states reeling from the devastation left behind after this spring’s flooding and tornadoes.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. A financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to those affected by a disaster. *On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve those affected by other disasters.* Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross Chapter at 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601. Tel. (508) 775-1540. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting cciredcross.org

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