



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

286 South Street
Hyannis, Massachusetts
02601
Phone: (508) 775-1540
Or (866) 762-1928

Media Alert
MEDIA ALERT

Contact: Glen Beasley
ccexdir@cape.com
(508) 775-1540 x 16

Red Cross Volunteers Respond to Fire on Martha's Vineyard

Hyannis, MA, November 27, 2009 – Three Island Red Cross volunteers Bill Howell, Shelley Christiansen, Sharry Stevens-Grunden, with assistance from Cape Cod volunteers Jonathan O'Neil, Dave Pollock, and Terri Tarozzi, responded to an early morning fire in Edgartown, MA this November. The fire occurred in a duplex and affected a total of nine people. These volunteers were able to provide victims with clothing, toys, first aid kits and comfort kits.

The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter recently trained 12 Disaster Action Team Members on the Island in collaboration with the community school held at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter is in the process of launching a \$58,000 initiative to support Martha's Vineyard Red Cross Service Delivery Operations, expand its number of volunteers on the Island and increase shelter supplies.

This *Preparedness Initiative* will benefit every resident on the Island. The ultimate success of the initiative will be measured by having Red Cross volunteers trained, equipped and ready to operate disaster response shelters and the community to be prepared to respond to local emergencies if the need arises.

In recent years the Chapter has ensured each community on Martha's Vineyard is equipped to shelter 48 people. A Red Cross response trailer with materials to support 100 evacuees is positioned on the island. In addition, the Chapter has provided an Emergency Response Vehicle to Martha's Vineyard. All Disaster Relief Support is provided free of charge and the Chapter is actively pursuing donor and foundation funds to support the *Preparedness Initiative* for and by Martha's Vineyard.

For more information about the *Martha's Vineyard Preparedness Initiative*, to become a volunteer or to get trained, both through the web training program or in person, please contact the American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601 or via www.cciredcross.org or toll-free at (508) 775-1540.

NOTE: All disaster relief support provided by the American Red Cross is free of charge. The Chapter does not receive government funding. It is totally dependent upon local support from foundations, individuals and businesses. A gift of any size to the American Red Cross will save the day when the next disaster strikes. When a neighbor's house burns down. When someone needs lifesaving blood transfusion. When a family needs to contact a deployed service member in an emergency. When a child needs a hug and a blanket. The gift that saves the day is the gift you give today. Your gift supports the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross in your community, across the country and around the world.

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