

For Immediate Release

Cape Cod and Islands Red Cross Provides Shelter Support Trailer to Martha's Vineyard



August 24, 2009, Hyannis, MA – In preparation of potential power outages or floods caused by Hurricane Bill, the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter moved a Shelter Support Trailer to Martha's Vineyard. This Shelter Support Trailer has been placed at the Martha's Vineyard Airport. It contains 100 cots, blankets, mats and children's and adult comfort kits to support the Island's Disaster Action Team members as they may need to operate one or more shelters on the Islands during the storm's aftermath.

Martha's Vineyard Disaster Action Team Member Bill Howell of Oak Bluffs says: "*We spoke with Martha's Vineyard Emergency Management Coordinator Chuck Cotnoir and Red Cross Emergency Services Director Jenn Carlson-Benoit and decided that it would be wise to have additional shelter supplies on the Island in advance of the Hurricane. The Materials Support services Team in Hyannis immediately contacted the Steamship Authority and was able to get a trailer on the afternoon boat. It's better to be prepared than to scramble.*"

Hurricanes are strong storms that cause life and property threatening hazards such a flooding, storm surge, high winds and tornadoes. The American Red Cross urges everyone to update their family evacuation plan, emergency preparedness kit and get prepared. Preparation is the best protection against the dangers of a hurricane.

If storm watches and warnings are issued, please always listen to the radio for information about shelters opening etc. The Red Cross will also strive to put the latest information up on the web site capecodandislandsredcross.org

For more information about preparedness in English or Portuguese, about 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 capecodandislandsredcross.org or call (508) 775-1540.

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