



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

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Media Alert **MEDIA ALERT**

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American Red Cross Asks the Public to Prepare for Winter Storms

Hyannis, Mass, February 10, 2010 - The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, is encouraging the public to be prepared for the next winter storms. A special winter storm checklist with tips on how to dress for and prepare homes for storms, as well as information on what to do after a storm hits.

A few important tips: Please ensure you have a battery operated radio to receive updates on possible shelters opening and other pertinent information from emergency management officials. Also, please use flash lights rather than candles because of the danger of house fires. Please make sure to have adequate supplies of medication on hand.

During a winter storm, the Red Cross remains committed to its core services of maintaining a safe blood supply, educating the public on preparedness, and providing disaster relief to those in need.

Be informed.

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for evacuation instructions. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Heed the advice of local officials, and leave if they tell you to do so.

If shelters are opened and you need to go: What to bring to a shelter:

- Prescriptions and emergency medicine
- Extra clothes
- Pillows and blankets
- Hygiene supplies (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, razor, etc.)
- Important documents (driver's license, social security card, insurance information, wills, deeds and birth and marriage certificates)
- Battery-powered radio
- Comfort items (books, magazines, games etc.)
- Special items for family members who are elderly or disabled
- Families with children and infants should also bring special items such as diapers, formula and toys with them as well

Please do not bring pets (unless the pet shelters are operational, which will be indicated in announcements), weapons or valuables.

For the winter storm check list or more information on how to be prepared for winter season or for volunteer opportunities, visit cciredcross.org

All American Red Cross disaster assistance and shelter support are free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of disasters locally by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Local Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to victims of disaster. Please send your contribution to Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, American Red Cross 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601. Tel. (508) 775-1540. Internet users can make a secure online contribution at www.cciredcross.org

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