



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

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Media Alert

For Immediate Release

Patricia McGarry Serves as Red Cross Disaster Volunteer during Recent Hurricane Earl Relief Efforts



Hyannis, MA, September 15th, 2010 - Patricia McGarry of Wareham, employed as Child Support Enforcement Specialist in Hyannis, is actively involved as a Disaster Action Team Member with the American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter.

Most recently, she was active in the relief efforts in preparation of and after Hurricane Earl and she is ramping up again, in case Igor comes close to the Northeast. For the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter she serves as Damage Assessment lead, working with other volunteers identifying where damage may have occurred and to ensure that areas are safe to travel to. This role is crucial especially in many flood prone areas on Cape Cod and the Islands.

Patricia McGarry says: "*The Red Cross Disaster Leave Program passed by the Legislature in 2004 has been in place as part of the Massachusetts General 30 Law, allows State employees to serve as a certified disaster volunteer for up to 15 calendar days of paid leave a year as long as you have permission from your supervisor and the needs of the office are met before deploying.*"

I have found that volunteering for the American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter is very satisfying because they make sure that every volunteer is trained and because of my experience, I can use my talents and expertise where they need it most. For example, I can help as an Emergency Response Vehicle Driver, as a Public Affairs Communicator and now, thanks to my recent training, as a Damage Assessment Lead Volunteer. In preparation for every potential disaster, they contact me about my availability and interest, so I only volunteer when it's okay with my job and personal life."

I am truly in awe of the many Red Cross volunteers who were so dedicated, willing to sleep in a gym to support those residents who needed a place to stay. I encourage every state employee to check out volunteering with the American Red Cross by going online at www.cciredcross.org and click volunteer. There are so many areas you can put your experience to use, and you only commit that time you can truly commit to. Volunteering is important, appreciated and most of all self-satisfying and gratifying."

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people.

For more information about volunteering, classes or supporting the American Red Cross, contact the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, 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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Note, not for publication: Patricia McGarry is available for interviews at (508) 322-0384