



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

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Media Alert **MEDIA ALERT**

American Red Cross Cape Cod and Islands Hosts the 2009 Southern New England Disaster Institute on Cape Cod from May 15th through 17th.

Hyannis, Mass, April 27, 2009 - The Cape Cod and Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross is hosting the 2009 Southern New England Disaster Institute (SNEDI) on May 15th through 17th.

Almost 200 disaster volunteers from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and New York will attend this year's Institute at the Ocean Edge Resort & Club on Cape Cod, located on Route 6A in Brewster.

The primary purpose of the Southern New England Disaster Institute is to develop the leadership and professional skills of Red Cross Staff, both Volunteer and Paid. At the Institute, there are opportunities to learn about important Red Cross programs and initiatives that impact each Chapter's planning and performance. It is designed to bring together Red Cross participants from a diverse number of Disaster Services activities and locations so they may have the opportunity to both network with and learn from each other.

This year's theme is "Sailing into Leadership." Courses relate directly to the "five things" Red Cross volunteers need to focus on for response within Disaster Services. The classes were chosen with a focus on growing leaders in local response within the Operations Management, Public Affairs, Disaster Assessment, and all activities in Mass Care.

Training and professional development are critical to the Red Cross collective ability to respond at the Chapters to meet the Disaster Services Mission of the American Red Cross across the country, because *every* disaster is local. If disasters occur, trained volunteers are essential to lead the spontaneous volunteers that often 'bubble up' in disaster situations.

The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter currently has some 300 trained disaster volunteers (or Disaster Action Team members) on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Volunteer training is only made possible thanks to the support of donations from individuals and foundations. Recently, the chapter started organizing community school volunteer training at different locations and is currently planning new classes and the chapter welcomes more volunteers.

For more information about volunteering, training or supporting the American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, see the web site: capecodandislandsredcross.org, call toll-free (508) 775-1540 or write to: 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601.

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