

RELIEF IN ACTION

HURRICANE FLORENCE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2018



**American
Red Cross**

Red Cross Delivers Relief to Thousands as Major Flooding Continues

The American Red Cross is working tirelessly to help people and communities devastated by Hurricane Florence as major flooding continues across the Carolinas.

Although the remnants of Florence have moved north, the threat is far from over. Rivers continue to rise in the Carolinas, and extremely dangerous flooding is still happening. Getting help into affected areas will be challenging for some time, but we're doing all we can to get help to where it is most needed, including working with partners to move volunteers and supplies.

Over 2,800 Red Cross volunteers and employees have mobilized from around the country to deliver sorely needed relief. With many communities underwater and others still threatened by relentless flooding, more than 8,100 people sought refuge in 94 Red Cross and community shelters Tuesday night.

In addition, the Red Cross is serving warm meals and snacks for impacted residents, as well as providing comfort kits and basic health services—such as help with replacing lost prescription medications and eyeglasses. Trained mental health workers are also on hand to offer emotional support for residents coping with stressful evacuations and heartbreaking losses.

This vital support means everything to people like 82-year-old Elizabeth, who fled her home for a shelter in Washington, N.C., as Hurricane Florence approached.



Floodwaters continue to inundate communities across the Carolinas in the wake of Florence. Photo by Brad Zervitz/American Red Cross

Days later, impassable roads and closed bridges had no impact on her bright spirit. She spoke highly of her favorite Red Cross volunteer: "I am grateful for Ms. Elaine's help. She has been taking care of me."

Our response to help people devastated by Florence is still in its early stages. Many neighborhoods remain submerged, and it could be days until families are able to return home and assess damage. As devastating and prolonged flooding continues, we are working alongside community and government partners to address survivors' urgent needs—and we will continue to stand by them as they clean up flooded homes and rebuild their lives.

Response at a Glance

The American Red Cross continues to mount a massive response across several states to help thousands of people affected by Hurricane Florence.



Over **254,000 meals and snacks** served with partners



Over **8,500 health and mental health contacts** made



Over **3,000 relief items** distributed

—Cumulative figures as of September 19, 2018



Michael G. Seamans/American Red Cross

Florence survivor Phu Ho Hoang texts with his family from a Red Cross-managed shelter in Dillon, South Carolina. To date, the Red Cross and partner organizations have supported **more than 82,300 overnight stays** in emergency shelters. We have also mobilized more than 110 trailers of equipment, plus over 140 emergency response vehicles to aid residents in hard-hit communities when they are safe to enter. And as devastating flooding continues, we've set up multiple field kitchens with a feeding partner, Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief, that can together produce a total of 170,000 meals every day.

Volunteer: 'No One Should Be Alone in an Emergency'

Providing health services and emotional support is a critical component of Red Cross disaster response. Health Services Lead Debbie Hayden, RN, pictured, is assisting residents at a shelter in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

No visit with a resident is complete for Debbie without listening intently to any further needs that they may have to be comfortable. "No one should be alone in an emergency. So even if I just need to sit with someone, then that's where I need to be," Debbie said.



Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

How You Can Help

Help people affected by Hurricane Florence. Your donation enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from this disaster. To donate online, visit redcross.org/donate and select "Hurricane Florence." To donate by check, write "Hurricane Florence" in the memo line, and mail it to your local Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37864, Boone, IA 50037-0864.