

Red Cross house fire responses spiking in July

Over 50 Lee residents assisted in past three weeks

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– The American Red Cross of Lee County has responded to 15 home fires in July, five more than May and June combined.

Disasters in Lehigh Acres, North Fort Myers, Cape Coral and Fort Myers have kept on-call volunteers busy and have stretched the locally raised budget used to pay for such assistance.

In July alone, 54 Lee residents have been provided with Red Cross disaster assistance. This aid consists of emergency lodging, assistance for food and clothing, comfort kits with personal hygiene essentials as well as referrals to United Way partner agencies and others. A typical family of four is provided with over \$1,000 in assistance.

“This month has been much more costly than usual, mostly because we’ve helped so many large families,” said Carlene Sharples, Lee County Red Cross Disaster Chair. “We have many more expenses than what people see. What people may not know is that we also help the first responders, giving them water and snacks on the scene.”

The Lee County Red Cross is not a governmental organization and does not receive government funding. Red Cross disaster assistance is paid for primarily through donations from Lee County residents and businesses.

To volunteer or donate money, contact the Lee County Red Cross at 239-278-3401 or visit arclcc.org.



The Red Cross is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. It provides training in life-saving skills and mobilizes relief to victims of disasters in addition to assisting members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. For additional information about the Red Cross and the assistance it provides, making donations, registering for a class or volunteering, call 278-3401, or log on to arclcc.org. The American Red Cross of Lee County is a proud member of the United Way of Lee County.