



**American
Red Cross**

of Lee County

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American Red Cross continues to respond to southern flooding *Several states affected; Georgia hardest hit*

FORT MYERS, Sept 24 – The American Red Cross is continuing to aid those affected by flooding in the southeast, where up to 22 inches of rain have inundated the area.

More than 400 people in Georgia and Tennessee took refuge in Red Cross shelters overnight, where they found a safe place to stay, a warm meal, clean, dry clothing, and a place to get the latest information on their situation.

The Lee County Red Cross has not been called into action, yet remains on-call with trained volunteers on stand-by.

Georgia has taken the hardest hit and officials there estimate the floods have left behind \$250 million in damages. According to news reports, the death toll is now at nine dead. Governor Sonny Purdue has asked the federal government to declare a state of emergency, and many roads and bridges remain closed.

The flooding has also touched the Red Cross. Its blood center in Douglasville, GA has been without water for the past few days but Southern Blood Services staff has continued working with the addition of portable restrooms and hand sanitizers. "Our staff has done an outstanding job of maintaining operations here while in some instances dealing with this tragedy on a personal level," said Tracye Bryant, communications manager, "We're committed to meeting the needs of patients here in the Southern Division." Southern Blood Services furnishes blood and blood products to 140 hospitals in Georgia, northeastern Florida, and southeastern South Carolina.

HOW TO HELP

You can help people affected by this disaster, by donating to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific , contributions are used to prepare for and serve victims of other disasters. Your gift enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to victims of all disasters. You can visit www.redcross.org or call 1-800-REDCROSS or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish) or mail your donation, to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

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.