

**For Immediate Release:  
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## **AMERICAN RED CROSS RESPONDS TO VICTIMS OF DEADLY STORM ACTIVITY**

**MEMPHIS, TN, - Feb. 7, 2008...**The past few days have been hard for many of our neighbors and friends. Lives have been lost and severe damage has been done as one of the worst tornado outbreaks in U.S. history ripped across the south, wreaking havoc along the way. Since the first tornado Tuesday afternoon, a reported 69 other tornadoes were sighted in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee.

### **Preliminary assessments indicate:**

- Media reports estimate 52 deaths occurred and more than 100 people suffered injuries as a result of the disaster.
- Homes, buildings, a retirement home, a shopping mall and dormitories at Union University in Tennessee sustained severe damage.
- In Tennessee - the hardest hit area - tornadoes damaged 1,600 homes and destroyed upwards of 120 homes.
- **The American Red Cross Response:**
- Red cross disaster workers were amongst the first responders and are currently on the ground, providing assistance
- The Red Cross and our partners have opened 8 shelters, providing more than 300 people with a safe and warm place to sleep
- Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles have deployed to affected areas to provide mobile assistance, including distribution of hot meals and clean-up supplies.
- The Red Cross will continue to assess the situation and work with other relief organizations to provide food, water, clean-up and comfort kits, bulk distribution, first aid, mental health services and other emergency assistance.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP? THE DISASTER RELIEF FUND**

The American Red Cross responds to approximately 75,000 disasters a year, including natural disasters such as these tornadoes, house fires, storms, hurricanes and other disasters, providing aid to more disaster victims nationwide. This means that every eight minutes a disaster strikes and a family turns to the Red Cross for help. The Red Cross stands ready to turn the compassion of our donors into action. With your support of the Disaster Relief Fund, a fund, that requires constant replenishment, the Red Cross can be there for the victims of the recent tornadoes.

You can make a secure online donation at [www.midsouthredcross.org](http://www.midsouthredcross.org) . If you would like to more information on how to make a financial donation, contact Lauren Shepard with the Mid-South Chapter of the American Red Cross at 901-726-1690, ext. 1111 or via email at [shepardl@midsouthredcross.org](mailto:shepardl@midsouthredcross.org).