



**American  
Red Cross**

Heart of Tennessee Chapter

Heart of Tennessee Chapter  
836 Commercial Court  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
[www.midtnredcross.org](http://www.midtnredcross.org)

*News Release*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Beth Ferguson  
Phone: 615.893.4272 ext. 106  
Fax: 615.895.8218  
[Fergusonb@hot-redcross.org](mailto:Fergusonb@hot-redcross.org)

## Red Cross Aids Middle Tennessee Flood Victims

### *Emergency Shelter in Manchester Closed; Smyrna Remains Open*

**(MURFREESBORO) May 2, 2010** – The American Red Cross Heart of Tennessee Chapter has closed the shelter at Coffee County Middle School on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. The shelter was opened on Saturday evening in response to the Middle Tennessee Floods. Red Cross volunteers have been on the scene ready to provide support and a safe place for people impacted by yesterday’s flooding. No one checked in or stayed at the shelter overnight.

Red Cross shelter closed effective Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:30 a.m.:

**Coffee County Middle School located at 865 McMinnville Highway in Manchester**

**The Red Cross continues to operate a shelter in Smyrna, TN located at:  
Smyrna Town Centre located at 100 Sam Ridley Parkway in Smyrna**

Saturday evening there were ten people who stayed overnight at the Smyrna Shelter. The Red Cross shelter in Smyrna will continue to provide a safe place to stay, food and emotional support to flood victims. The Red Cross encourages people who plan to stay at the shelter to bring “comfort items” such as blankets, pillows, sleeping bags, and books or magazines. Evacuees should also bring any needed medicines and special items for infants, children and the elderly. Pets are NOT allowed at the shelter. The Red Cross will keep the Smyrna shelter open throughout the day and assess the need to continue operating the shelter again overnight.

People rely on the American Red Cross to respond immediately and effectively in any emergency situation, including this weekend’s flooding. The Red Cross responds by opening shelters, preparing and serving meals and snacks and mobilizing trained disaster relief workers to provide these and other services without delay. The Heart of Tennessee Chapter plans on beginning damage assessment in affected areas for Rutherford, Bedford, Cannon, Coffee, Franklin and Moore Counties as early as tomorrow.

And as we’ve witnessed, damaging weather doesn’t just happen in Middle Tennessee. Flood and tornado warnings all over the state are highlighting the need for people to prepare **in advance** for such emergencies. Every family should have an emergency supplies kit in their home containing flashlights, a battery-powered radio, water, etc. Those items are extremely useful in the event of a damaging disaster. After a flood, a family might use a flashlight to inspect their home for damage. They might use a battery-powered radio to listen for instructions about utilities. They might need the bottled water if tap water is contaminated. Flooding is a terribly damaging natural disaster financially and emotionally. But planning ahead is the one sure step to a calmer and more assured response.

The Red Cross recommends that you follow these safety steps if heavy rains and flooding are likely:

**Know what flood warnings mean:**

- A **flood WATCH** means a flood is possible in your area. During a flood watch, move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home. Fill your vehicle’s gas tank in case you have to evacuate.
- A **flood WARNING** means flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area. If a flood warning is issued, listen to local radio and television stations for information. If told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible.

- A **flash flood WATCH** means flash flooding is possible in your area. Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate quickly.
- A **flash flood WARNING** means a flash flood is occurring or will occur *very soon*. Evacuate immediately. You may only have seconds to escape. Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades. If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

Get the facts you need — before, during, and after a disaster or emergency situation. There is more important information on how to be prepared for flooding, tornadoes, and other emergencies in the [Preparedness section](#) of our Web site.

You can help your local Red Cross assist local disaster victims in our community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by making a contribution to the Heart of Tennessee Chapter at 836 Commercial Court, Murfreesboro, TN 37129 or online at [www.midtnredcross.org](http://www.midtnredcross.org)

*Help people affected by disasters like the recent floods, by donating to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve victims of other disasters. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for disasters and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance to victims of all disasters. Call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).*

**-End-**