

Statement of Understanding

*Between
The American National Red Cross
and
The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints*



**American
Red Cross**

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I. Purpose

This Statement of Understanding (SOU) supercedes and replaces the Statement of Understanding signed on May 7, 1997. This SOU expands upon the working relationship between The American National Red Cross (hereinafter referred to as the American Red Cross or the Red Cross) and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in preparing for and responding to disaster relief situations at all levels.

This agreement provides the broad framework for cooperation between the two organizations in rendering assistance and service to victims of disaster, as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial, including the collection of blood for patients in need.

II. Concept of Operations

Each party to this SOU is a separate and independent organization. As such, each organization retains its own identity in providing service, and each organization is responsible for establishing its own policies and financing its own activities.

III. Definition of Disaster

A disaster is a threatening or occurring event of such destructive magnitude as to suddenly dislocate people from their homes and separate family members, damage or destroy homes and/or cause injury, illness and death. A disaster produces a range and level of immediate suffering and basic human needs that cannot be promptly or adequately addressed by the affected people, and impedes them from initiating and proceeding with their recovery efforts.

Natural disasters include floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, typhoons, winter storms, tsunamis, hailstorms, thunderstorms, wildfires, windstorms, epidemics and earthquakes. Human-caused disasters—whether intentional or unintentional—include residential fires, the structural failure of buildings, mass transportation accidents, hazardous material incidents, explosions and acts of terrorism.

IV. Mission of the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its congressional charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, will provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

V. Authority of the American Red Cross

In providing disaster relief, the American Red Cross has both a legal and a moral mandate that it has neither the authority nor the right to surrender. The American Red Cross has both the power and the duty to act in disaster, and our prompt action is clearly expected and supported by the public.

The American Red Cross authority to perform disaster services was formalized when the organization was chartered by the Congress of the United States in 1905. Among other provisions, this charter charged the Red Cross—

to continue and carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods and other great national calamities; and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same.

—U.S. Congress, January 5, 1905, as amended, 36 U.S.C.

The authority of the American Red Cross to provide disaster services was reaffirmed by federal law in the 1974 Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 93-288) and in the 1988 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

VI. Organization of the American Red Cross

The national headquarters of the American Red Cross is located in Washington, D.C. National headquarters is responsible for implementing policies and regulations that govern American Red Cross activities, and for giving administrative and technical supervision and guidance to the chartered units. Chartered units include chapters and Blood Services regions. The Board of Governors has delegated to the duly-constituted volunteer governing board of each chartered unit the authority and responsibility for: (a) governance of the chartered unit, (b) delivery of authorized services in the territorial jurisdiction of the chartered unit and (c) meeting corporate obligations, in conformance with and subject to the limitations stated in corporate regulations.

The American Red Cross provides the following services: armed forces emergency, biomedical, disaster, health and safety, youth, community and international services.

Each chartered unit has the authority and responsibility for carrying out the purposes of the American Red Cross, for delivering local American Red Cross services and for meeting corporate obligations within the territorial jurisdiction assigned in conformity with corporate regulations. There are almost 900 chapters across the United States.

Each chapter is responsible for providing disaster planning, preparedness, education and response. Each chapter

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Each chapter is responsible for providing disaster planning, preparedness, education and response. Each chapter

has a disaster leadership team or committee. This team or committee studies the hazards of the locality and surveys local resources for personnel, equipment, supplies, transportation, emergency communications and facilities available for disaster relief. The chapter disaster leadership also formulates cooperative plans and procedures with local government agencies and private organizations for carrying on relief operations should a disaster occur. Through its nationwide organization, the American Red Cross coordinates its total resources for use in large disasters. Services will be provided to those in need regardless of citizenship, race, religion, age, sex or political affiliation.

There are 35 Blood Services regions nationwide. The regions are responsible for collecting, testing, processing and distributing blood and blood components to serve patients in 3,000 hospitals.

VII. Organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Since its founding, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has cared for the needy, including victims of disaster. It encourages its members to be actively engaged in community causes, such as those promoted by the American Red Cross. Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are encouraged to live providently, as well as to prepare for emergencies.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is presided over by the First Presidency. Under the direction of the First Presidency, affairs of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are carried out by the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, the Quorums of the Seventy, the Presiding Bishopric and other officers. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organized into geographic areas presided over by Area Presidencies. Smaller geographic divisions are called stakes and are presided over by three men forming a stake presidency. Local congregations are called wards and are presided over by a bishopric of three men.

Area church leaders meet regularly and plan for and respond to emergencies.

Requests for disaster relief contributions to public and private agencies are submitted to the Welfare Services Department of The Church of Jesus Christ (50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150; telephone, 801-240-1201). Requests for congregations of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to volunteer services on a local level are submitted to the stake president or bishop.

VIII. Methods Of Cooperation

In order that the resources of the American Red Cross and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints may be coordinated and used to the fullest advantage in rendering disaster relief, both organizations have agreed to the following:

- 1) Close liaison will be maintained between American Red Cross national headquarters and the headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by conferences, meetings, telephone, facsimile and other means. Each organization will share current data regarding disasters, disaster declarations and changes in legislation, as well as international relief and development activities. The same interaction and liaison will be encouraged between chapters and area welfare leaders.
- 2) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will encourage participation and coordination of services between its congregations and the Red Cross for mutual service to the community.
- 3) Each organization, through its chapters and area welfare leaders, will explore opportunities for training in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and health courses, as well as community disaster education, and will participate in other cooperative efforts, such as providing disaster relief services. This cooperation will be based on local circumstances and needs.
- 4) Leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be encouraged to participate in cooperative disaster planning with local American Red Cross chapters. Planning includes considering the provision of mass care services and other functional activities for all levels of disaster, including anticipated mass care services requested by the Red Cross during a Federal Response Plan disaster. Selected church employees and/or volunteers in Welfare Services may be requested to assist in warehousing or other disaster services.
- 5) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recognizes the right of legitimate licensed organizations to collect blood. In those localities where the American Red Cross operates a blood center or regularly collects blood, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will encourage Stake Presidents to provide opportunities for regular blood drives within their jurisdictions even if other blood donor organizations are used as well.
- 6) Each organization recognizes the capability and the right of the other to give assistance to disaster victims. However, each organization will coordinate with the

local resources for personnel, equipment, supplies, transportation, emergency communications and facilities available for disaster relief. The chapter disaster leadership also formulates cooperative plans and procedures with local government agencies and private organizations for carrying on relief operations should a disaster occur. Through its nationwide organization, the American Red Cross coordinates its total resources for use in large disasters. Services will be provided to those in need regardless of citizenship, race, religion, age, sex or political affiliation.

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Cross operates a blood center or regularly collects blood, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will encourage Stake Presidents to provide opportunities for regular blood drives within their jurisdictions even if other blood donor organizations are used as well. 6) Each organization recognizes the capability and the right of the other to give assistance to disaster victims. However, each organization will coordinate with the

- other to prevent unnecessary duplication of services. When The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the American Red Cross join efforts, service will be provided equitably and impartially to those in need, regardless of their citizenship, race, religion, age, sex or political affiliation.
- 7) During disasters, a local church official will be appointed to communicate and coordinate with the leadership of the Red Cross disaster operation.
 - 8) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or its nonprofit affiliate, Latter-day Saint Charities, will collaborate with Red Cross International Services for international development-related activities.
 - 9) During international disasters, the Red Cross may communicate and coordinate with Church Welfare Services regarding international disaster operations participation and any assistance needed from members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, such as identifying local disaster needs, providing translation and other services to assist Red Cross international disaster relief personnel.
 - 10) The American Red Cross will invite Church Welfare Services representatives to its International Response Team training to observe the course and identify those segments of the training most applicable to the needs and interest of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
 - 11) When requested by the American Red Cross, and when possible, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will provide the American Red Cross with food, clothing and selected supplies and equipment for the victims of disasters domestically and internationally.
 - 12) The American Red Cross and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will inform their respective leaders, chapters, Blood Services regions, congregations and administrative offices of, and otherwise widely distribute, this Statement of Understanding and will urge full cooperation with the other.
 - 13) Recognizing the need to advise the public of the work of both organizations, the Red Cross and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will make every effort through their public information offices to keep the public informed of their cooperative efforts in response to disasters and blood drives.
 - 14) The American Red Cross and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will actively seek to determine other areas/services within their respective organizations where cooperation and support will be mutually beneficial and to amend this Statement of Understanding accordingly to include such agreements.

- 15) The two organizations agree that any mutual expenses incurred as a result of cooperation or collaboration under the terms of this Statement of Understanding will be apportioned as agreed to in writing by both parties prior to incurring such expenses.
- 16) The use of the name and emblem of either organization by the other shall be allowed only in the case of particular projects undertaken pursuant to the prior express written consent of the other and when such projects are in conformity with American Red Cross regulations.

IX. Periodic Review

Representatives of American Red Cross Disaster Services and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will, on an annual basis, on or around the anniversary date of this agreement, jointly evaluate progress in the implementation of the Statement of Understanding and revise and develop new plans or goals as appropriate.

X. Term of Statement of Understanding

This SOU shall be effective on February 4, 2005, and terminate on January 31, 2010. Six months prior to termination, the parties shall meet to review the progress and success of the SOU and determine whether it shall be extended for an additional five years. In no event shall any extension of this SOU be for a period exceeding five years.

XI. Miscellaneous

This Statement of Understanding does not create a partnership or a joint venture, and neither party has the authority to bind the other.



Bishop H. David Burton
Presiding Bishop
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Marsha Johnson Evans
President and Chief Executive Officer
The American National Red Cross

February 4, 2005

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