

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jenna Zone Tucci
Communications Associate
216.431.3256
440.785.6597 (cell)

Mary Gygli
Associate Director, Communications
216.431.3284
440.785.1077 (cell)

**AMERICAN RED CROSS, GREATER CLEVELAND
PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO MORE THAN 150 PEOPLE IN ONE MONTH**

Cleveland (July 13, 2007) - In the past 30 days the American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter Disaster Action Team (DAT) responded to 24 fires in the Cleveland area, including two apartment fires. The DAT offered assistance to 62 families, providing them with immediate needs. The Greater Cleveland Chapter also provided food and beverage to 40 firefighters who responded to an industrial fire on the city's east side.

The Greater Cleveland Chapter has distributed significantly more resources during this time than a typical month. More than \$25,000 was provided to assist 116 individuals affected by the fires.

Every day, the American Red Cross provides free assistance to disaster victims when they need it most. To help victims in disasters in the Greater Cleveland area, including Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake Counties, visit www.redcross-cleveland.org/donate and make a financial donation. Financial donations allow the Greater Cleveland Chapter to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to those in need.

The Red Cross also provides tips to prevent fires in your home:

Be Prepared

- Replace smoke alarms that are 10 or more years old
- Install smoke alarms inside and outside every sleeping room and on every floor of your home

-more-

- Replace smoke alarm batteries twice a year and test the alarms monthly
- Plan two escape routes for each room in your home and make sure every family member is aware of these routes
- Post emergency numbers near every phone in your home
- Do not use candles for lighting if the power goes out; use flashlights only

The Greater Cleveland Chapter helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies by providing shelter, food, clothing and mental health counseling to families affected by disasters in Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake counties. All disaster relief is free and is made possible by generous donations from the American people.

###