

HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER - UPDATE

Thurs., September 1, 2005 - The damage is still being assessed regarding the situation in southern Louisiana and Mississippi.

The Blood Center in New Orleans is completely flooded and is expected to be down for at least a month or two. Presently, most patients in the New Orleans area have been evacuated into western and northern Louisiana and Houston, Texas. The Mississippi Blood Centers are up and running as of today, Thursday, September 1.

Currently, there is no immediate critical need for blood and blood products to the area. Please see the September 1, 2005 ABC Press Release. Donations from local blood centers are sustaining the current need. Cascade Regional Blood Services has not been asked to provide blood products at this time. The greatest concern is for displaced and homeless families.

Financial assistance is the most helpful gesture at this time.

If you would like to directly assist the New Orleans Blood Center and their displaced employees and families, contributions can be made to the Foundation for America's Blood Centers (go to: americasblood.org). Funds received will be forwarded directly to the New Orleans Blood Center.

For general hurricane relief donations, please contribute to the relief agency of your choice.

Blood drives will be held specifically for the disaster area in the *near future* as requested by blood centers and hospitals in the affected area. We will keep you and all other local donors posted as we receive updated information.

Your donation is still needed to support your community! The week preceding Labor Day is a time when many of our regular donors' take vacations. Holiday traffic and activities

typically result in more traumatic injuries that require more blood transfusions. Please donate blood at Cascade Regional Blood Services today.

Cascade Regional Blood Services' mission is to provide safe and cost effective blood and blood products to the communities we serve. Cascade Regional Blood Services serves ten area hospitals in Pierce and South King counties. For more information, contact Kelley Gregory: 253-383-2553, ext 234.

