

HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER - UPDATE

Wed., August 31, 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, Wednesday August 31.

Currently, there is no immediate critical need for blood and blood products to the area. Donations from local blood centers are sustaining the current need. Cascade Regional Blood Services has not been asked to provide blood – at this point in time. The greatest concern is for displaced and homeless families.

Financial assistance is the most helpful gesture at this time. You can provide a financial contribution through the Red Cross' Disaster Relief or other relief organization.

Blood drives will be held specifically for the disaster area in the near future as requested. We will keep you and all other local donors posted as we receive updated information. Of course, donating today is always helpful and donors are eligible to donate again in 56 days.

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.

