

# Red Cross Currents

MAY 2022



American Red Cross  
Massachusetts

## Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



## Sound the Alarm Returns!

The Massachusetts Region hosted its annual **Sound the Alarm** events to residents in five cities this month: Brockton, Everett, Methuen, Springfield, and Worcester. Red Cross volunteers kicked off these five events by joining local fire departments and city mayors. First Lady Lauren Baker, a passionate advocate for home fire safety, served as our regional spokesperson for Sound the Alarm and actively engaged on the installation teams.

**Sound the Alarm** is a part of the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign. Since the program began in 2014, the Home Fire Campaign has saved upwards of 1,200 lives across the country.

This month, more than 540 homes were made safe by our **Sound the Alarm** installation teams, who installed more than 1,190 free smoke alarms. Each team consisted of a Red Cross volunteer, National Grid employee, and local community member. These three-person teams fanned out across the cities to residents who had requested their homes be made safer.

Volunteers were the highlight of these events, showing up in force and believing in the Red Cross mission. They secured food donations, helped train installation teams, made route maps, coordinated logistics, helped with registration, and took photos and videos.

A constant refrain from everyone was how nice it was to be back in person, seeing friends and fellow volunteers. The two-plus-year pandemic that's still impacting the world finally eased enough to hold these large in-person events, to help educate and promote fire prevention in communities hard hit by home fires.

Thank you to all our staff, volunteers, and partners who helped make our **Sound the Alarm** events



a success. Your hard work and selfless giving of your time helped make it an inspirational time with friends and colleagues once again.



*First Lady Lauren Baker meets with an Everett resident to discuss home fire safety and build their 2-minute escape plan. Sound the Alarm focuses on safety through the installation of smoke alarms, and education of residents about safety in the home and how to escape a fire if one should start.*

**PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:  
SPRINGFIELD, WORCESTER, METHUEN, BROCKTON, EVERETT**



## **May is Trauma Awareness Month**

Each year, traumas account for 41 million emergency department visits and 2.3 million hospital admissions across the nation, according to the National Trauma Institute. When seconds count, it is the blood products already on the shelves that help save lives in an emergency situation.

**The American Red Cross** needs to collect approximately 13,000 units of blood every day to meet the needs of trauma patients and others with serious medical conditions.

During Trauma Awareness Month, the Red Cross urges eligible blood and platelet donors to roll up a sleeve on behalf of those in need. All blood types are needed, and you needn't know your blood type in advance to donate.

To make an appointment, download the free **American Red Cross Blood Donor App**, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), or call **1-800-RED-CROSS**.

Through June 3, the Red Cross is testing all donations for COVID-19 antibodies. Results may indicate an antibody response after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine or possible past exposure to this coronavirus. This may identify donations with antibody levels necessary to potentially help COVID-19 patients with a weakened immune system.

However, the Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, including COVID-19. If you feel unwell for any reason, please postpone your donation. Individuals who believe they may be ill with COVID-19 should not donate until they are symptom free for 10 days and feel well and healthy.



## Memorial Day Volunteer Opportunities

May is Military Appreciation Month, when the Red Cross highlights its commitment to serving the U.S. military community at every step—from the time a service member takes the oath to navigating life as a veteran. The Red Cross supports military communities across the globe at military hospitals, on overseas installations, and in communities across Massachusetts and around the nation.

We invite you to join us for one of the following volunteer opportunities at BBQ celebrations this Memorial Day—Mon., May 30. For additional information, reach out to [Christine.Platzek@redcross.org](mailto:Christine.Platzek@redcross.org).

### West Roxbury VA Medical Center

*When:* 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

*Where:* 1400 VFW Pkwy, West Roxbury

*Volunteer Involvement:*

Set up grills, cook food, thank veterans for their service, distribute food to veterans, and help clean up.

If you cannot stay for the entire event, that's okay; just let us know.

[Register here](#)

### Brockton VA Medical Center

*When:* 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

*Where:* 940 Belmont Street, Brockton

*Volunteer Involvement:*

Set up grills, cook food, thank veterans for their service, distribute food to veterans, and help clean up.

If you cannot stay for the entire event, that's okay; just let us know.

[Register here](#)

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**Work for Us and Make  
a Difference**



The American Red Cross of Massachusetts has the following three job openings in our Disaster Cycle Services department.

These positions help prepare local residents for in home emergencies and assisting them in the recovery from disasters.



### **Disaster Workforce Engagement Manager**

<https://rdcrss.org/39ZlOtu>

The Disaster Workforce Engagement Manager leads and manages a primarily volunteer team to support and provide Disaster Workforce engagement in the Massachusetts region. The Manager serves as the lead functional expert in the region for supporting the disaster workforce, tailors national program offerings for both the region and communities within the region, and provides technical expertise, training, and leading regional implementation of Disaster Workforce priorities. The Manager also supports regional employees and volunteers in the disaster territories to build capacity in the local community for the disaster cycle.

### **Disaster Program Manager (Southeast Massachusetts)**

<https://rdcrss.org/3wOOEEt>

We seek a Disaster Program Manager to support our Hyannis chapter office. The position also serves the Fall River, New Bedford, and Taunton areas. The Manager provides functional expertise to leadership at a regional level or takes full cycle responsibility to provide service delivery programs within a defined geography.

### **Disaster Services Program Specialist (Greater Boston)**

<https://rdcrss.org/3lJScTo>

We seek a Disaster Program Specialist to support our Greater Boston area. This position works out of the Medford office and supports Disaster Cycle Services throughout Greater Boston. This full-time position requires on-call and disaster response availability.

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## ***Keep Us Posted***

Please send us your news and photos, and upcoming calendar events, to:

[News.RedCrossMA@redcross.org](mailto:News.RedCrossMA@redcross.org)

Stay up-to-date on breaking news on our social channels and tag @RedCrossMA when you post about your Red Cross work!



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