



**American  
Red Cross**

Capital Area Chapter

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Capital Area Chapter  
American Red Cross  
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*News Release*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Disaster Preparedness Seminar  
hosted by Red Cross Campus Ambassadors**

**Tallahassee, FL, September 24, 2010** – The Campus Ambassador’s Emergency Services Program will be holding their first “Be Ready Disaster Preparedness Seminar” on Monday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m. The Be Ready Disaster Preparedness Seminar will be held on FSU’s campus in the Student Services Building (SSB 203) and is open to all college students and the public. The free Seminar is an hour long workshop that will teach local college students the important steps to take during an emergency situation. The emergency could range from a hurricane, tropical storm, tornado or even a small fire.

The American Red Cross Campus Ambassadors is a humanitarian group of college students composed of volunteers and interns from FSU, FAMU, and TCC with a common interest in serving their community and gaining relevant field experience. The Campus Ambassador’s mission statement is parallel to the Red Cross mission statement, “...provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.”

Emergency Services Coordinators for the Campus Ambassadors Program Mike Resto and Kristin Samulkewitsch planned Monday’s seminar with one goal in mind: to work towards making Tallahassee’s college students the most disaster prepared students in the nation.

“There are more than 50,000 college students in Tallahassee,” said Mike Resto. “This is a way for us to prepare local college students with skills that could potentially save their lives.”

The interactive seminar will promote three key steps to achieving preparedness: get a kit, make a plan and be informed. Students who attend will learn what to include in their emergency kit from local emergency experts, Katie Sherk, Senior Director of Emergency Services at the Capital Area Chapter and Lieutenant Ken Bergstrom, Tallahassee Police Department. Students will also learn about volunteer and internship opportunities with the Campus Ambassadors.

“With many students arriving in Tallahassee from other areas of the country as well as a large contingency of international students that are unfamiliar with the unique weather conditions that effect this area, it is important they learn how to prepare for emergencies specific to the Big Bend,” said Katie Sherk, the senior director of emergency services at the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross and one of the scheduled speakers for the event. “We are very fortunate to have a great group of students that created the Campus Ambassador program in conjunction with the Capital Area Chapter.”

With one event nearly completed and with an ambitious goal to tackle, Resto and Samulkewitsch are already in the process of planning more events under the Emergency Services program.

“For many students, college is the first time that they are directly responsible for their own safety,” said Samulkewitsch. “That’s where we come in to make sure that students understand this great responsibility. Everyone in attendance of the seminar will leave with a clear understanding of how to prepare, why preparation is important and a list of tools that you will need in an emergency.”

To view the flyer, please visit <http://www.tallyredcross.org/>.

**About the American Red Cross:** *The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [www.TallyRedCross.org](http://www.TallyRedCross.org) or join our blog.*

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