



American Red Cross

News Release
NEWS RELEASE



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(...for immediate release)

County Fire Marshalls and Houston Fire Chief Help Launch Red Cross Campaign

Fire Marshalls from three counties, Brazoria, Fort Bend and Harris, graciously lent their support during the announcement of *Fire Hurts, Red Cross Helps*. The campaign's goal is to raise awareness and money for the assistance the American Red Cross provides to fire victims.

Brazoria County Fire Marshall Albert Priselac, Fort Bend County Fire Marshall V.T. Cooper, Harris County Fire Marshall Mike Montgomery and Houston Fire Chief Terry Garrison attended the March 1st news conference at the Red Cross office in Houston.

They praised the Red Cross for the emotional support and immediate, emergency assistance the staff and volunteers offer fire victims every day in our communities. Every 15 hours, dedicated Red Cross volunteers and staff are responding to families who need our help after a devastating fire. Apartment fires often leave dozens of families homeless within minutes.

Last year, the Houston Area Red Cross helped more than 900 families, 3,000 individuals, get back on their feet after fires stole their homes, possessions and sense of security. The Red Cross brought help and hope, by providing assistance for shelter, food, clothing, bedding and prescription medicines.

While Red Cross Disaster Assistance is free to those who need it, costs to our Houston Chapter is approximately \$1-million a year to provide it. This amount does not reflect the countless hours our dedicated volunteers devote to those families and individuals needing assistance.

That's why the financial goal for *Fire Hurts, Red Cross Helps* is \$1-million dollars. We ask the community, individuals and businesses, to help us help our neighbors by donating at houstonredcross.org by June 30th or by calling our local office in Angleton at 979-849-6439. Remember any money donated from Brazoria County will be used to assist families in Brazoria County.

And to keep your family safe, visit houstonredcross.org for fire safety and preparedness information or call our office to find out more. Most fires are preventable.

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Pictured above: At the Fire Hurts, Red Cross Helps News Conference -- Brazoria Fire Marshall Albert Priselac, Fort Bend Fire Marshall V.T. Cooper, Harris County Fire Marshall Mike Montgomery join Red Cross Fire Client Frances Moses(center)who lost everything except the her Bible in a recent fire.