



### **What is a Disaster Action Team?**

A Disaster Action Team (DAT) is a team of local volunteers who provide important on-the-scene services to disaster victims and first responders. At the disaster site, team members fill out appropriate paperwork to aid the victims and provide them with emergency food, clothing and shelter. Team members also provide on-the-scene canteen service (water, coffee and snacks) to fire fighters and other emergency responders. The team on duty is on-call 24 hours a day, for a week at a time, approximately once every two months.

### **What are the responsibilities?**

**As a DAT member, a volunteer is expected to:**

- Take the appropriate training needed to perform a DAT role
- Be on-call 24 hours a day, for a week at a time, approximately once every two months
- Respond to disasters when contacted by a Team Leader
- Fill out appropriate paperwork to assist disaster victims and provide them with emergency food, clothing and shelter
- Provide on-the-scene canteen service (water, coffee and snacks) to fire fighters and other emergency responders

### **How do you become a DAT volunteer?**

- Call the Volunteer Office at 256-536-0084 ext. 212 to discuss details of the placement.
- Complete a volunteer application.
- Have a short interview.
- If the interview results in a successful match, you will be asked to complete and clear a background check.
- Then, you will be scheduled to attend a one hour volunteer orientation.

### **Once you have completed all of the above steps:**

- Disaster Services will contact you to schedule you for an interview.
- If this interview results in a Disaster Action Team placement, you will be scheduled for "Fulfilling our Mission" and at least three additional disaster courses.
- To become certified, you must also work a minimum of 10 hours on a local disaster assignment.



### **Did you Know....?**

- Home Fires are the single largest disaster.
- Our chapter will respond annually to over 200 families with Disaster Services providing adequate food, shelter and clothing, as well as, prescription medications.
- All disaster assistance is free - a gift made possible by generous donations from the American public.



**American  
Red Cross**

**Madison/Marshall County Chapter  
1101 Washington Street NW  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
Phone: (256) 536-0084  
www.redcrossrelief.org**

Mission Statement

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its *Congressional Charter* and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.



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*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 humanitarian mission.*



**Disaster Action Team  
(DAT)**