



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Martin J. Golden

## The Greater New York Red Cross Responds to Irene-Update

MARTIN J. GOLDEN August 28, 2011

Dear Elected Officials,

Below please find the latest information on the American Red Cross response to Hurricane Irene and important safety information. I encourage you to share the information below with your constituents:

As of 2:00 PM Today:

- Hurricane Irene, which made first landfall in New York at approximately 9 am today, bringing significant rain and flooding, is now passing out of the Tri-State region.
- As a result of yesterday's evacuations of flood-prone neighborhoods in New York City, Long Island, Westchester, the Lower Hudson Valley and Greenwich, Connecticut, the Red Cross has been operating or supporting more than 150 shelters, providing more than 10,000 evacuees with a secure, dry, place to overnight.
- Most shelters remain in operation for people who are unable to return home; they are continuing to receive a safe haven, meals, beverages and emotional support from hundreds of trained Red Cross volunteers.

- In order to determine the extent and scope of the relief operation, the Red Cross is now commencing disaster assessment activities, which will be conducted in all hurricane-affected areas.

- Hundreds of additional trained volunteers are being mobilized to ensure the continuity and success of this long-term operation.

We urge all residents in affected areas to be safe, even after the hurricane has passed, by following these important safety tips:

- Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio broadcast or the local news for the latest updates.

- Stay alert rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.

- If you are evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.

- Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.

- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.

- Stay out of any building that has water around it.

- Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes.

- Use flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles.

- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.
- Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.
- Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.
- Watch animals closely and keep them under your direct control.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

## SAFE AND WELL

The Red Cross Safe and Well website helps people let friends and family know where they are as Hurricane Irene moves up the coast. It can bring your loved ones peace of mind. You can still go to the Safe and Well site and register yourself by visiting our web, [www.nyredcross.org](http://www.nyredcross.org).

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your financial support enables us to always be there for our neighbors in need

- TEXT "RED CROSS" TO 90999
- Call 800 RED CROSS
- [www.nyredcross.org](http://www.nyredcross.org)