



Public Employees...

Can Make A Difference!

**By Volunteering With The
American Red Cross**

ANSWERING THE CALL

Sometimes the plea comes from the stunned look on the faces of the family whose home was just destroyed by fire, sometimes from hurricane evacuees seeking shelter from the storm—familiar faces that could be your family, friends, or neighbors.

You Can Respond To This Plea.

Become an American Red Cross Disaster Services Volunteer!

- As a trained disaster responder you are eligible for **20 Work Days** per calendar year for *Disaster Leave*.
- *It's easy to get involved*, simply contact your local Red Cross Chapter and ask to enroll as a **Disaster Services Volunteer**.
- You will receive **free training** in areas such as mass care, shelter operations, disaster assessment, client casework, and much more!



September 24, 2005. Houston, Texas. As Hurricane Rita approaches, dinner is served to shelter residents by Red Cross Volunteers and parishioners of St. Maximilian Church.
Photo: Gene Dailey/American Red Cross

NEW YORK STATE DISASTER LEAVE LAW

- The American Red Cross disaster leave proposal was signed into law on September 25, 2001. Passage of this legislation (Chapter 358 of the Laws of 2001) had been a priority of the Red Cross in New York and throughout the nation for many years.



Mary Sabers speaks to a volunteer at a Red Cross shelter near her home in Lady Lake, Florida. Early on February 2, 2007, a tornado hit the home she and her husband had occupied for just two weeks, damaging but not destroying it.
Photographer: Daniel Cima.

- Currently, 46 states have programs in place providing for government employees to be released to volunteer for Red Cross disaster relief assignments. Experience has shown that this has improved the ability of the Red Cross to respond to disasters, while providing valuable skills to government employees.
- The New York Disaster Leave Law provides that State government employees may be released from their jobs to volunteer for Red Cross disaster relief assignments for up to 20 days in any calendar year.
- Such leave must be approved by the employee's agency and is available for trained Red Cross volunteers only.
- The law also authorizes local governments and State public authorities to offer disaster leave. Chapter 505 of the Laws of 2002 expands disaster leave to include employees of school districts.

For more information on the *Disaster Leave Law* please contact your Human Resources Department.

To find your local Red Cross Chapter click [here](#).