



**American  
Red Cross**

of Greater Columbus

# NEWS ADVISORY

Contact: Lynn Householder-Glenn  
614.253.2740 ext. 2374 Cell: 614.496.7610

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For Immediate Release

## **Local Volunteer Heads West to Assist Residents of Wildfires Additional Volunteers Are Prepared If Needed**

**October 23, 2007** - Wildfires continue to rage across Southern California, forcing thousands to evacuate the area. Doris West, a volunteer with the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus is leaving at 4 pm today for San Diego to assist residents affected by the wildfires. This is Doris' first time traveling with the Red Cross on disaster assignment. She will be assisting with sheltering efforts during the disaster response. The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus has additional volunteers on stand-by to be deployed to the area if needed.

Red Cross chapters in Southern California opened shelters and housed more than 750 people on October 21. Several other shelters are on standby.

*All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of thousands of disasters across the country each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to victims of disaster. The American Red Cross honors donor intent. If you wish to designate your donation to a specific disaster, please do so at the time of your donation. Call 1-800-REDCROSS or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P. O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).*

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**NOTE: Doris West is available for interviews until her flight leaves Columbus International Airport at 4pm. Contact Lynn Householder-Glenn for more information.**