



**American  
Red Cross**  
of Greater Columbus

# NEWS ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

**Home Fires Are the Deadliest Disaster In the Nation**  
***Help the American Red Cross Reduce the Risk for Families In Columbus***

**August 1, 2007** - Nationally, over 3,000 people are killed and 17,000 injured each year making residential fires the deadliest disaster in the nation. Fires kill more Americans each year than all natural disasters combined. In Franklin County alone, the American Red Cross responds to more than 400 house fires annually. With the support of Chase, the American Red Cross' Safe Homes Safe Families program sends outreach teams to local neighborhoods with a high rate of residential fires each month to spread the word about fire safety and prevention.

Volunteers are needed to assist with this important outreach effort. One Saturday a month groups of volunteers drop important educational materials door-to-door in a specific neighborhood. Volunteers walk in groups and do not enter homes. Volunteers are needed for the following dates:

- Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>

Groups and families are encouraged to volunteer. Efforts will begin each Saturday at 9:30 am and will conclude at 1 pm. Call (614) 253-2740 ext. 2355 for more information.

The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. Sustained by over 700 volunteers, the Red Cross provides assistance to nearly 500 families each year after home fires and other disasters strike. Last year the organization trained and educated more than 113,000 area residents in vital lifesaving skills like first aid, CPR and how to prepare for emergencies. The Red Cross also sent more than 800 emergency messages between members of the military and their families. The community transportation program provides rides to medical appointments for seniors and individuals with disabilities, logging nearly 17,000 trips last year. All these programs and more are made possible by the donations of time and money from the greater Columbus community.

Michael Carroll is the CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus and Michael Schoedinger serves as the board chair.

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