## **Red Cross offers free virtual classes to prepare for disasters**

PORTLAND-The devastating winter storms our region just experienced, and this past ty summer's wildfires, serve as a painful reminder that disasters can happen to anyone, anywhere, anytime — even during a pandemic.

So, in honor of March being Red Cross Month, the Red Cross Cascades Region is hosting a series of free emergency preparedness presentations throughout the month. All presentations are virtual, and everyone is welcome to attend. Red Cross volunteers are available for virtual media interviews today.

## How to prepare for emergencies:

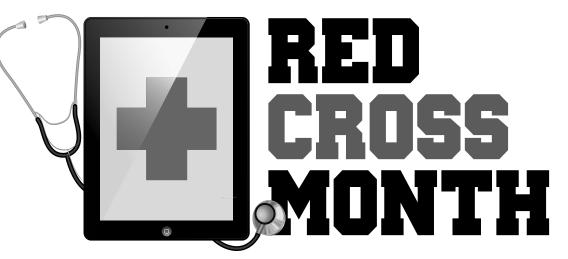
Taking place every Tuesday in March from 6 to 7 p.m., classes will cover the most common disasters we face in the Pacific Northwest and how to prepare for them. Whether you're motivated to start building your preparedness kit, or need a refresher course, these classes are designed to help families and individuals learn how to be better prepared. Information and links can be found at redcross. org/cascades.

• March 9: Wildfire Safety • March 16: Earthquake Safe-

• March 23: Flooding Safety

For nearly 80 years, U.S. pres- pandemic: idents have proclaimed March as Red Cross Month to recog- saster Relief efforts at redcross.

• Donate: Support our Dinize people giving back through org/GivingDay. A gift of any



Red Cross recognizes that preparing for emergencies looks a little different right now, but the three basic action steps remain the same: Build a Kit, Make a Plan and Be Informed. In addition to the preparedness series, the Red Cross Cascades Region has a free downloadable "Prepare! Guide" available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Russian.

**Red Cross Month** 

is powered more than 90 per- vide shelter, food, relief items, cent by volunteers. They include people who volunteer to provide emotional support, psychological first aid and referrals to community assistance for need across the country. families coping with disasters during the pandemic.

## How to help

You can help ensure that families don't face emergencies and feeling well, make an ap- visit redcross.org/cascades or alone - especially during a pointment at RedCrossBlood. cruzrojaamericana.org.

• March 30: Home Fire Safety its lifesaving mission — which size makes a difference to proemotional support and other assistance. Your donation will be part of our annual Giving Day on March 24 to aid families in

> • Volunteer: Visit redcross.org/VolunteerToday for most-needed positions and local opportunities.

• Give blood: If you're healthy

org. Your donation can make a lifesaving difference for a patient in need. As a thank you, those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma on March 15-26 will receive a Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

• Learn lifesaving skills: Take a class in skills like CPR and first aid to help in an emergency at redcross.org/TakeA-Class. Online options include our Psychological First Aid for COVID-19 course, which covers how to manage stress and support yourself and others.

## American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission.

For more information,





NO MORE's eighth annual NO MORE week is March 7-13, 2021. Our goal is to inspire everyone to make change to help create a culture of safety, equality, and respect in our communities. No matter where you are, #ChangeHappensHere.



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Deadline for Press Releases Is Every Monday and Thursday by Noon. Email stories and photos each week to PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM.