

# March is named Red Cross Month

Governor Ted Kulongoski has proclaimed March as Red Cross Month in Oregon, joining President Barack Obama in a tradition upheld by every U.S. President dating back to Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1943. See Oregon's 2010 Red Cross Month proclamation at [www.oregonredcross.org/proclamation](http://www.oregonredcross.org/proclamation).

"The American Red Cross is there when people need us most. During March, we thank those whose support enables us to continue our work," said Maree Wacker, Regional Executive for the American Red Cross in Oregon. "Their generosity helps us continue to serve those who need us every day – whether they are down the street, across the country or around the world."

The American Red Cross is part of the world's largest humanitarian network – 97 million volunteers helping in 186 countries. In this country, the Red Cross helps change lives seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Last year in Oregon:

- 600 families relied on the Oregon Red Cross for immediate help after a disaster.
- 2,200 military families received assistance with emergency communications from the Oregon Red Cross.
- 6,500 Oregonians give their time to make their communities safer by volunteering for the American Red Cross.
- 74,000 Oregonians gave life-saving blood through the American Red Cross.
- 122,000 Oregonians learned life-saving skills through the American Red Cross.

The help of the American Red Cross extends around the world to those in need. In just a little over a month since the earthquake devastated Haiti, the Red Cross has helped more than one million people in the region. Relief efforts include providing clean water and sanitation, food and relief supplies, and health care. It will take many years for the people of Haiti to recover and the American Red Cross will work

in close coordination with other organizations to support longer-term assistance projects.

March is a great time for people to get involved with the American Red Cross – to give blood, take training in CPR and first aid, volunteer or give a financial gift to help when the next disaster strikes. Contact the Oregon Trail Chapter at 503-284-1234 or visit [www.oregonredcross.org](http://www.oregonredcross.org) to find out how you can get involved.

In Oregon, the American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disaster an average of 10 times a week; supplies more than 90 percent of Oregon's blood; teaches thousands of Oregonians lifesaving skills; offers transportation to seniors and the disabled; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization – not a government agency – and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [www.oregonredcross.org](http://www.oregonredcross.org) or join our award-winning blog at [www.oregonredcross.org/blog](http://www.oregonredcross.org/blog).

# Power of the People

By W. Marc Farmer, General Manager, West Oregon Electric Cooperative



## One Down, Two to Go

We actually have one major project completed and two that are works in progress. On the Timber/Elsie Transmission Line Project, where we undergrounded 14.4 miles of the 16 mile line, the construction portion has been completed. This project has been the largest and most time-consuming project in the history of West Oregon. With a final cost of over \$6 million, (of which over \$2.6 million was paid for with federal grant funds), it is also the highest project cost we've ever undertaken.

The result, though, is a line that has been knocked out of service at some point by trees and/or wind every year of its existence, and severely damaged to the point of costing over a million dollars twice, will now be our most reliable line for the foreseeable future. We have significantly increased the reliability and longevity of this transmission line with cable that is out of the trees and has a warranty for the next 40 years.

Following is an excerpt from our Operations and Engineering Manager Steve Scott's report to the Board.

The construction work is 100% complete, and the clean-up/follow-up work about 95% complete. The new transmission line has been operational since Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2009, without incident. Since that time, we've had one heavy wet snow storm in the area and one strong wind-storm, both of which would have taken out the

old overhead line at numerous locations. The Michels Job Shack is gone and the surrounding area has been cleaned up. All removed transmission poles and hardware have been disposed of in the appropriate manner. The remaining work primarily consists of two things, (1) removing run-off barriers required by various permits (DEQ, County, etc.) and the closing out of said permits, and (2), thermal scanning the termination elbows in the vaults. The environmental follow-up work (#1) is required to be done in the spring, and WOEC has agreed to also have the thermal scanning (#2) done in the spring to avoid tearing up the newly seeded trench route, which would surely occur if the work was done now.

As Steve stated above, there are final requirements we will need to follow in order to officially close the project. Since federal money was used from FEMA, Oregon Emergency Management, and Rural Utilities Services, there were many federal requirements, forms to complete and permits to obtain, which then need to be closed out, and other stipulations for receipt of funds. Since the funds received were over \$1 million, an audit will be performed so that all funds received and spent can be accounted for.

I would like to extend congratulations and my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of our personnel who made this project a reality. Without the many, many hours of dogged determination, time, effort, and energy that was dedicated to this project from both a financial and operational standpoint, this project would not have been completed as successfully and smoothly as it did. It was indeed a team effort to reach a successful completion on this important and crucial project. Thanks everyone!

# Make Vernonia Shine on April 17

This year registration will be at the Vernonia Middle School starting at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will also be served in the school's cafeteria from noon to 1:00 p.m..

This year we will be focusing on cleaning the moss from the bricks downtown, digging out from around the trees and re-barking, removing Ivy from some of the trees by the river, and some general litter picking up.

A new feature we've added this year is some informational tables, which will be set up in the covered play area. At this time we do not have all commitments firmed up, so look for them in the next paper.

It looks like we will have plenty of things for you to do, so put April 17th on your calendar and plan to come out and give us a hand.

**Make each day count, so that when tomorrow comes... there are no regrets, just MARVELOUS memories.**



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