

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AMERICAN RED CROSS, GREATER CLEVELAND CHAPTER
PROVIDES TIPS TO PREPARE FOR FLOODING**

Cleveland, Ohio (March 1, 2007) - With heavy rains in Northeast Ohio and the potential for flooding, the American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter urges residents to be prepared. Follow these safety tips to prepare for a flood emergency.

- Prepare a family disaster plan
 - Keep insurance policies, documents and other valuables in a safe-deposit box
 - identify a place where you could go if told to evacuate
 - make a list of important phone numbers

- Assemble a disaster supplies kit containing:
 - first aid kit
 - essential medications
 - three gallons of water per person
 - rainwear, protective clothing and bedding
 - battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
 - cash
 - written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so

- When a flash WATCH is issued:
 - move furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home
 - fill your car's gas tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued

- When a flood WARNING is issued listen to local radio and TV stations for information and advise. If told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible

- Raise your furnace, water heater and electric panel if they are in areas of your home that may be flooded

The Greater Cleveland Chapter helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies by providing shelter, food, clothing and mental health counseling to families affected by disasters in Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake counties. All disaster relief is free and is made possible by generous donations from the Greater Cleveland community.

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