

For more information, contact: Beth Thomas
American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter
Communications Coordinator
216-431-3072

Mayor Bruce Akers City of Pepper Pike 216-533-7870 cell	Fire Chief Tom Hartman City of Pepper Pike 216-896-6139
---	---

American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter and the City of Pepper Pike Partner to Bring Disaster Preparedness Training to Residents

Cleveland, Ohio – January 9, 2006 – This January, the American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter and the City of Pepper Pike will begin to train more than 250 Pepper Pike residents in first aid, CPR, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and in-home disaster preparedness. The cost of this certified training will be underwritten by the City of Pepper Pike.

“Pepper Pike is the first community in the Greater Cleveland area to take on a project of this magnitude and we commend Mayor Bruce H. Akers and the city for taking the lead and inviting more than 2,000 households to prepare its residents for the unexpected. It’s critical for communities to be prepared and take initiative with disaster preparedness. We hope that other communities will follow by example,” said Mary-Alice Frank, Greater Cleveland Chapter CEO.

Residents will learn what they can do to keep themselves, their families and their community safe before, during and after an emergency. Pepper Pike residents may attend either an all-day, eight-hour workshop or two four-hour sessions. There is also a Web-based option for those who prefer to complete the training piece online.

Red Cross training sessions will be held on January 12 and 26 from 6-10 p.m., January 14 and 28 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., January 28 from 9 a.m. 5 p.m., and March 4 and 11 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Moreland Hills Elementary School, located at 32000 Chagrin Blvd.

Pepper Pike residents should call the Greater Cleveland Chapter at 216-431-3076 to sign up for training sessions.

“Disasters can occur anywhere and at anytime.” said Bruce H. Akers, Mayor of the City of Pepper Pike. “And it’s imperative that families become trained in disaster preparedness. By doing so, families can be better prepared to help out the professional safety forces at the time of most critical need.”

Note: Training sessions are open to members of the media at no cost. If you are interested in actually taking the classes, contact Beth Thomas at the American Red Cross, 216-431-3072 or via e-mail at thomase@redcross-cleveland.org.

###