

Unit 9: Safety and Environmental Health

Introduction

The American Red Cross has been the nation's leading emergency response organization for more than 100 years. Its programs range over a wide variety of areas. It aids the victims of war, natural disasters, and terrorist attacks. It provides aid to the needy, both at home and abroad. It gives support to members of the armed forces and their families. It collects, processes, and distributes blood and blood products, and it offers educational programs that promote safety and health. You can learn more about the many lifesaving programs the Red Cross offers by visiting its Web site.

Links to Explore:

The American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/>

Directions:

- Follow the link above to the American Red Cross home page.
 - Click on "About Us" at the bottom of the page and read the background information about the Red Cross.
 - From the main page, click on the links labeled "Disaster Services," "Biomedical Services," and "Health and Safety Services." Read through these sections of the site as well.
 - After you have examined all these parts of the site, answer the following questions:
1. How many employees and how volunteers many does the Red Cross have?
 2. How many local chapters are part of the American Red Cross?
 3. What is the focus of the Red Cross's disaster relief programs?
 4. How many people give blood through Red Cross blood drives each year?
 5. List three types of courses offered by the Red Cross.
 6. Does the Red Cross receive support from the U.S. government?

Answers:

1. 35,000 employees and nearly one million volunteers
2. More than 700
3. Meeting people's immediate emergency needs in the event of a disaster, including shelter, food, and medical and mental health services
4. More than 4 million
5. Any three: first aid, CPR, bloodborne pathogens training, swimming, lifeguarding, HIV/AIDS education, babysitter's training, training in the use of an AED

6. No

Additional Links to Explore:

Use the links below to gather additional information on the activity topic. When appropriate, have students extend their research to include important concepts contained in these Web sites.

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is a faith-based organization that provides a variety of social services, including disaster relief, to more than 30 million people each year. It seeks to offer material, physical, emotional, and spiritual comfort to survivors of a disaster and to first responders.

<http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/>

Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps works to relieve suffering, poverty, and oppression around the world by helping people build secure, productive and just communities. Its emergency relief services aid victims of war or natural disasters.

<http://www.mercycorps.org/>

Volunteers of America

The Volunteers of America is a faith-based organization that provides a variety of social services to people and communities. Its emergency services include clothing, food, and medical care.

<http://www.voa.org/>

United Blood Services

United Blood Services provides blood, blood components and special services to patients in more than 500 hospitals throughout the Western United States.

<http://www.unitedbloodservices.org/>

National Safety Council

The National Safety Council (NSC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting life and promoting health. The NSC offers courses in emergency care, including first aid, CPR, external defibrillation, and bloodborne pathogens.

<http://www.nsc.org/>