Needs of Children in the Shelter Environment

American Red Cross
Needs of Children in Shelter Environment

- Reunification
- Nutritional needs
Safe and Well
Patient Connection

Family Reunification in Times of Disaster
The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

**Lines of Service**
- Disaster Services
- Blood Services
- Health & Safety
- Preparedness
- Service to the Armed Forces
- International Services

**Fundamental Principles**
- Humanity
- Impartiality
- Neutrality
- Independence
- Voluntary Service
- Unity
- Universality
Family Reunification

- Patient Connection
- Safe & Well Online Registry
- Restoring Family Links
- International Tracing
- Armed Forces Emergency Services and Communications

American Red Cross
What is Safe and Well?

A free, easy tool that people can use to let their loved ones, friends and colleagues know that they are safe.
Two Main Functions

- **Register**: Those affected by disaster self-register on the site

- **Search**: Friends and family then search the list and view the registrants’ posted messages
Users of Safe and Well

- The General Public
- Emergency Management
- Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes
- Businesses and Universities
Integrated Response

Information is used by Red Cross to physically locate vulnerable people when a request is initiated by concerned family.
Access

- Available 24/7/365
- www.redcross.org/safeandwell
- 1-800-Red-Cross (1-800-733-2767)
- Paper forms in shelters, evacuation transition points
- Excel-style spreadsheet for use when there is no connectivity
Safe and Well

After a disaster, letting your family and friends know that you are safe and well can bring your loved ones great peace of mind. This website is designed to help make that communication easier.

Register Yourself as “Safe and Well”
Click on the “List Myself as Safe and Well” button to register yourself on the site.

Search for Loved Ones
Concerned family and friends can search the list of those who have registered themselves as “safe and well” by clicking on the “search registrants” button. The results of a successful search will display a loved one’s first name, last name and a brief message.

List Myself as Safe and Well

Search Registrants
Safe and Well Messages

Please choose one or more of the standard messages below to describe your status. You can also choose to add your own message in the Custom Message box, up to 255 characters. Please take care that your message is appropriate for the public, and do not publish names or details if doing so could be detrimental to you or others. These messages are not reviewed by the American Red Cross. If you have an emergency, please dial 911.

Safe and Well Messages

Safe and Well Messages *
☐ I am safe and well.
☐ Family and I are safe and well.
☐ Currently at shelter.
☐ Currently at home.
☐ Currently at friend/family member/neighbor's house.
☐ Currently at a hotel.
☐ Will make phone calls when able.
☐ Will email when able.
☐ Will mail letter/postcard when able.
☐ I am safe and in the process of evacuating.
☐ I have evacuated and I am safe.
☐ I am evacuating to a Shelter.
☐ I am evacuating to the house of a family member/friend.
☐ I am currently/remaining at home.

Custom Message
Facebook and Twitter

Clients can update their status on Facebook and/or Twitter simply by clicking the an icon on the Safe and Well registration page.

Everyone in their “Friends List” will be notified that they registered on the American Red Cross Safe and Well Website.
Future of Welfare Information and Family Reunification

How will systems integrate?

Current Initiatives:
- FEMA – NEFRLS, NMETS
- Patient Tracking Systems
- NCLEC
- EDXL
- Google Missing Persons
- Facebook
- Crisis Commons
Patient Connection Triggers

- 10+ patients sent to area hospitals
- Transportation accidents: mass transit, aviation, and traffic emergencies
- Building fires and collapses
- As a precaution before some large events i.e. Chicago Marathon, NATO summit, etc.
How it Works

- Disaster victims are frequently transported without notice to loved ones.
- Red Cross provides a single hotline to call, reducing calls and walk-in traffic to Emergency departments.
- Hospitals send names and descriptions of affected patients to Red Cross. Call agents work to make matches.
- Hospitals and emergency management can refer families to Red Cross.
Hospital Website
www.chicagoredcross.org/patientconnection
Patient Data (Hospital Website)

Required:
- Patient First Name *
- Patient Last Name *
- Facility

*John or Jane Doe if unidentified

- Birth Date
- Age
- Sex
- Ethnicity
- Hair Color
- Condition
- Entered From
- Distinguishing Characteristics
- Additional Notes
Hospital Planning Checklist

✓ Include Patient Connection in your EOP

✓ Identify and train a team to collect & send data

✓ Practice entering names (drills, new staff)

✓ Familiarize key staff:
  - Emergency Preparedness Committee, ED Staff, Social Work, Chaplains, Administrators, Communications

✓ Make sure we know what team is trained and how we can reach them
FAQs

- **Can we still fax patient data?** Yes but we prefer the website so we no longer have the fax forms. Fax:xxx-xxx-xxxx.

- **How many patients must we get to start sending names?** Just one patient, as long as they are from a mass casualty incident. Please train staff to proactively send data if it appears to be a large incident.

- **Is the family hotline available 24/7?** No, xxx-xxx-xxxx is only activated during larger emergencies. We publicize the number and notify hospital regions if the incident warrants family reunification. We encourage you to refer callers to this line only if you believe we are activated for a mass casualty incident.
Planning for Nutrition for Children in Disaster

- Nutritional needs of infants

- Nutritional needs of children
Infant Needs

- Cribs
- Breastfeeding support
- Supplemental nutrition
Overall Considerations

- Allergies
- Shelf stable meals
- Tube feedings
- Catastrophic planning
Contact Information

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