

Module 7: Public Health
Topic 2 Content: The American Red Cross® Notes

Introduction



American Red Cross®

Module 7: Public Health

Topic 2 Content: The American Red Cross® Notes

Natural Disasters



Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, and house fires are several of the disasters that occur in our world. Many lives are affected by these disasters. Lives are lost. Homes are destroyed. Communities are devastated. Families are often left homeless for some time. Many organizations help the victims affected by natural disasters, but one of the most prominent organizations that gives aid to victims of disasters is the American Red Cross®. The American Red Cross® responds to tens of thousands of disasters every year, including house fires.

Module 7: Public Health

Topic 2 Content: The American Red Cross® Notes

Disaster Relief



The American Red Cross® disaster relief focuses on the immediate needs of those affected by disaster. It provides shelter, food, and health and mental health services to address basic human needs after disasters. In addition, the American Red Cross® also provides meals for emergency workers, handles inquiries for concerned family members outside of the disaster area, and provides blood and blood products to disaster victims.

Module 7: Public Health
Topic 2 Content: The American Red Cross® Notes

International Relief



The organization's efforts span not only the nation but the world as well. Through its international services, the American Red Cross® provides international disaster relief and basic health care to people around the world. In recent natural disasters in other countries, you may have seen images of American Red Cross® workers from around the world or you may know of donation drives to support the American Red Cross'® efforts in a country that has experienced a natural disaster.

Module 7: Public Health
Topic 2 Content: The American Red Cross® Notes

Community Support



In addition to disaster relief, the American Red Cross® provides community services that assist individuals in need, and supports and comforts military members and their families.

Module 7: Public Health
Topic 2 Content: The American Red Cross® Notes

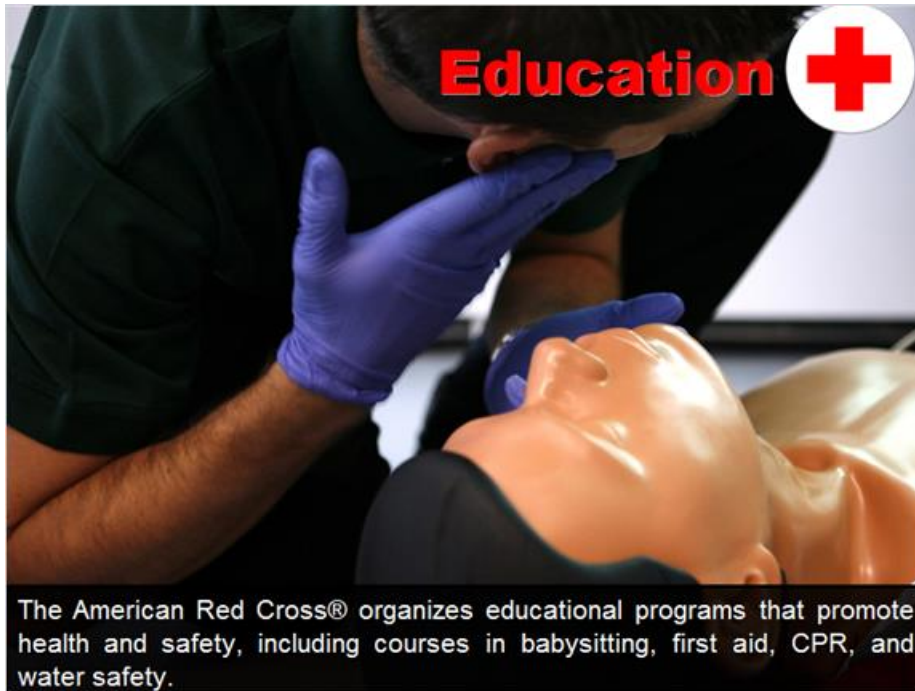
Biomedical Services



The organization's biomedical services organizes the collection, processing, and distribution of lifesaving blood and blood products. You may have seen blood drives in your community coordinated by a local chapter of the American Red Cross®.

Module 7: Public Health
Topic 2 Content: The American Red Cross® Notes

Education



The American Red Cross® organizes educational programs that promote health and safety. For instance, you can sign up to take a course in babysitting, first aid and CPR [see pee ahr], or even water safety.

Module 7: Public Health

Topic 2 Content: The American Red Cross® Notes

Volunteer



There are currently thousands of volunteers and employees who work for the American Red Cross®. Whether it is teaching classes in CPR, first aid, swimming, or other health services, volunteering at blood donation sites, delivering urgent family messages for those in the armed forces, or helping connect families who have been separated by disasters, there are numerous ways to volunteer for the American Red Cross®.

Module 7: Public Health

Topic 2 Content: The American Red Cross® Notes

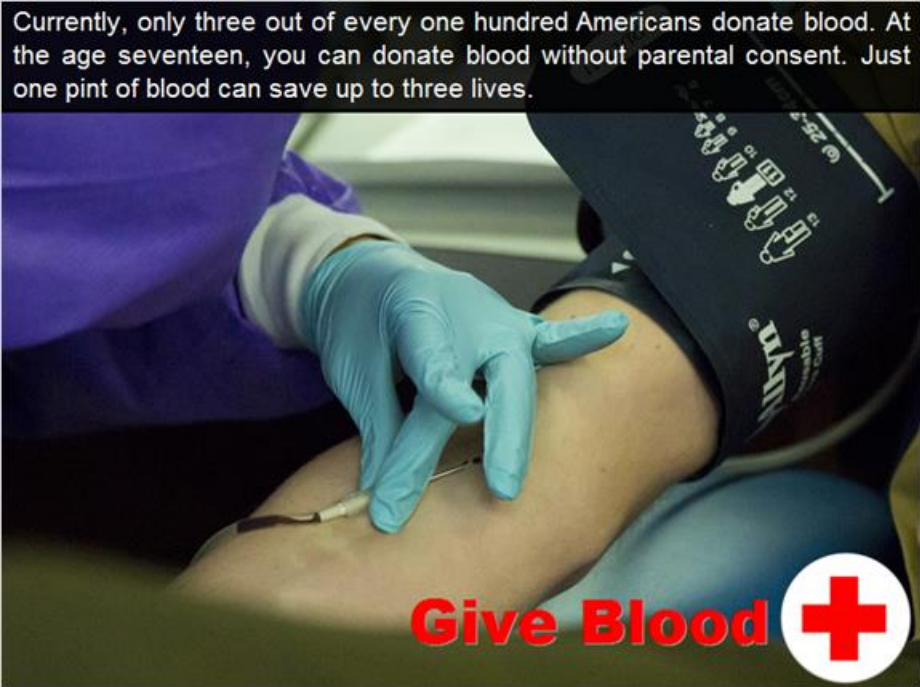
Donate



You can also donate money to assist the American Red Cross® humanitarian efforts. You can also contribute by organizing a fundraiser to raise money for the cause. Fundraising is always a way to support such an organization.

Module 7: Public Health
Topic 2 Content: The American Red Cross® Notes

Give Blood



One pint of blood can save up to three lives. At the age of seventeen, you can donate blood without the consent of a parent or guardian in any state. Some states allow sixteen-year-olds to donate with the consent of a parent or guardian. If you cannot give blood, you can contribute by organizing a blood drive through the American Red Cross® in your own community.