



commit correspondence

Fall 2016

Home Fire Financial Assistance

Provide Immediate Assistance to Families in Windham

The American Red Cross responds to nearly 70,000 disasters each year, and the vast majority of those are home fires. While we work in communities nationwide to help prevent these tragic events, we also need to be prepared to respond locally when they occur.

The Red Cross is committed to meet the emergency needs of each and every family in Windham. The Red Cross is there to help and last year, we served 101 people from across Cumberland County and 11 people from Windham. In FY2016, the Red Cross has responded the emergency needs of 807 people from 345 families in Maine!

The American Red Cross respectfully requests a municipal allocation in the amount of \$500 from the residents of Windham for the coming year.

Within minutes of learning about a home fire, local Red Cross volunteers are on the scene providing care and comfort to those affected. One way we help is by ensuring that their immediate needs, such as food and shelter, are met. We do this by providing families with client assistance cards, which they use to purchase essential items that were lost in the fire. This special card often represents the first step in recovery following a home fire, but we need your continued support to offer these vital financial resources to your neighbors.

The Red Cross must be ready to respond to a family or the larger community in need whenever and wherever a disaster may strike and that constant state of readiness requires the generous municipal, corporate, foundation and individual financial support. The Red Cross is counting on the people of Windham.

All Red Cross disaster relief is provided free of charge to individuals and families. The American Red Cross is not a government agency. Though our services are congressionally mandated, the American Red Cross relies on voluntary contributions from individuals, companies, municipalities and charitable organizations in order to deliver on our mission to alleviate human suffering.

The biggest disaster threat to Maine families isn't floods, hurricanes or tornadoes; it's a home fire. The American Red Cross responds to a disaster every eight minutes and nearly all of these are home fires.

The Red Cross must be there 24 hours a day to answer the call and with the support of neighbors like you, we will always be ready.

Warm regards,

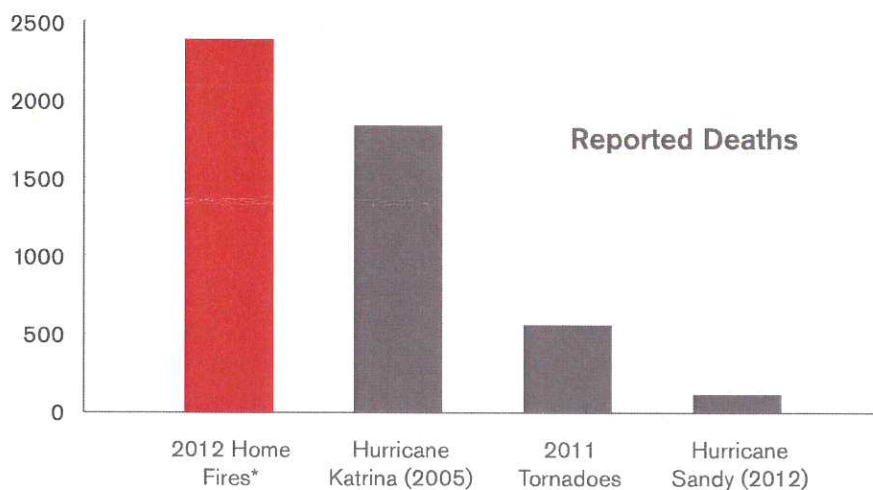
Caroline King

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PS: Please feel free to contact me if you would like any additional information about Red Cross services or if you would like to have a Red Cross representative speak at your town or committee meetings.

Support Home Fire Relief

More people die in home fires each year than in many major natural disasters. With the proper tools and information, these tragic events can be prevented and lives can be saved.



Commitment to Making an Impact

The American Red Cross launched the **Home Fire Campaign to reduce the number of fire-related deaths and injuries by 25 percent over the next five years**. The campaign provides families and communities with the tools and information they need to prevent and prepare for home fires.

Fire experts agree that people may have as little as **2 minutes** to escape a burning home.

But many families haven't taken key steps that would help them act quickly during a fire. According to a survey for the Red Cross:



52% of parents with children ages 3-17 have not talked to their families about fire safety.



70% of families with children have not identified a safe place to meet outside the home.



82% have not practiced home fire drills.

Red Cross Response to Home Fires & Other Disasters

The Red Cross is focused on Disaster Relief to help families and communities prepare for, respond to and recover from home fires and other disasters.

The Red Cross responds to nearly 70,000 disasters each year, the majority of them home fires. We help those affected to recover by providing them with the long-term support they need to get back on their feet. We also help families and communities prepare for and prevent home fires through initiatives like the Home Fire Campaign.



*National Fire Protection Association