



Contact: Elizabeth Popovich
845-294-9785
popoviche@arcgny.org

Web Site: www.nyredcross.org

Press Room: www.nyredcross.org/pressroom

Sullivan County Press Contact: Elizabeth Popovich, Director
#845-294-9785

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN RED CROSS SUPPORTS PROCLAMATION OF HOME FIRE DRILL DAY IN SULLIVAN COUNTY

Goshen, New York - April 28, 2006 – With the support of the American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) Sullivan County Area Office, the Sullivan County Legislature has proclaimed Monday, October 9, 2006, as “Home Fire Drill Day” throughout the county. The date coincides with Fire Prevention Week, when county residents learn about fire prevention and emergency preparedness from local fire departments.

Joining with the staff and volunteers of ARC/GNY, Sullivan County Commissioner of Public Safety Richard Martinkovic advocated for the proclamation to encourage awareness of the importance of fire prevention and home safety. The proclamation was issued by Chris Cunningham, chairman of the Sullivan County Legislature.

“Nationwide, the American Red Cross responds to 73,000 disasters, 92 percent of which are single family home fires,” said Mr. Martinkovic. “Home fires affect millions of Americans, and they are devastating and traumatic. Fires occur every hour of every day, and most of these are preventable.”

According to the ARC/GNY Orange/Sullivan Area Office, a recent national poll conducted by the Red Cross discovered that 80 percent of Americans are unaware that home fires are the most common disaster in this country.

Alternative heating sources, including space heaters, wood and coal stoves, and fireplaces, are known to contribute to 74 percent of fire-related deaths. Children are twice as likely as adults to die in residential fires, yet half the homes with children under the age of 18 use alternative heating sources.

ARC/GNY joins forces with Sullivan County officials, emergency responders, agencies, civic groups, businesses and residents to ensure that the community knows how to prevent fires and how to respond quickly during an emergency. As part of emergency planning and preparedness, every home should be equipped with working smoke alarms that provide early warnings of fire and smoke, and each family should develop and practice an escape plan to safely evacuate the home.

All residents of Sullivan County can obtain information on fire prevention and emergency response by attending free community disaster education programs, obtaining fire safety tips at www.nyredcross.org , or by visiting the area office located at 55 Main Street in Goshen (phone: 845-294-9785).

Now in its 100th year, the American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) helps people in New York City and Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan Counties avoid, prepare for and respond to emergencies. ARC/GNY provides immediate aid to those affected by more than 3,000 emergencies a year – from fires and water main breaks, to building collapses and blackouts. The Red Cross also helps New Yorkers stay prepared for emergencies by offering hundreds of health and safety courses on such subjects as first aid, disaster preparedness, swim safety and adult/child CPR throughout the region. For more information, call 1-877 RED CROSS (1-877-733-2767), or visit www.nyredcross.org.

###