



*Together, we can save a life*

American Red Cross  
Blood Services, Southern Region  
Headquarters  
1925 Monroe Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30324  
(404) 881-9800

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**CONTACT:** Candice Gulden (404) 253-5473/cell: (678) 488-7822  
Cammie Barnes (404) 253-5239/cell: (678) 488-7926

### **Blood Needed To Boost Supply After Storms And Serious Accident**

*Tornadoes and Atlanta Bus Accident May Stress Blood Supply*

**ATLANTA** – Tornadoes that hit Georgia and Alabama yesterday are taxing an already-low blood supply and donations are needed to supplement the available supply, say officials of the American Red Cross. Currently at Red Cross headquarters there is less than a one-day supply of type O and type B blood, which are the types in greatest demand in hospital emergency rooms.

“We sent 75 units of type O blood to Alabama last night and want to be prepared for further requests from Alabama hospitals as well as from hospitals in south Georgia, where people are recovering from severe tornadoes,” said Mario Sedlock, director of donor services of American Red Cross Blood Services Southern Region. “Due to storm damage, several blood drives had to be cancelled today and our Columbus Donor Center is closed through the weekend. This means we need more blood donors across Georgia to step up to help their neighbors in these areas that sustained so much damage.”

A multi-victim bus accident in Atlanta that occurred early this morning may also result in a greater need for blood donations, since the current blood supply is far below optimal levels, according to the Red Cross.

Except for the Columbus Center, all American Red Cross Donor centers in Georgia will have extended hours today, on Friday, until 4:00 pm. On Saturday donor centers in Athens, Albany, Gainesville, Macon, Savannah and Valdosta will be open from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. In metro-Atlanta, seven donor centers will take donations from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday. Plus the Midtown and Cobb Centers will be open on Sunday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. To make a donation appointment, please call **1-800-GIVE LIFE (448-3543)**.

The American Red Cross has seven blood donor centers in metro-Atlanta as follows:

**Alpharetta Donor Center** -- 3000 Old Alabama Road, Suite 110

**Camp Creek Donor Center** -- 3645 Marketplace Boulevard, Suite 180, East Point

**Cobb Donor Center** -- East Lake Shopping Center, 2145 Roswell Road, Suite 250, Marietta

**Duluth Donor Center** -- 3090 Premiere Parkway, Suite 500, Duluth

**Dunwoody/Sandy Springs Donor Center** -- 1155 Hammond Drive, Building A

**South Metro Donor Center** -- 675 Southcrest Parkway, Suite 120, Stockbridge

**Midtown Donor Center** -- 1955 Monroe Drive, Atlanta

Blood donors must be age 17 or older and weigh at least 110 pounds. Because blood cells replace themselves, people can safely donate every 56 days.

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