

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our Red Cross volunteer partners engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

- **East Idaho Real Heroes**, Idaho Falls, March 8
- **Training Institute**, West Yellowstone, April 20-23
- **Sound the Alarm smoke alarm install**, Boise, April 27-28, volunteers needed, visit www.redcross.org/idaho
- **Sound the Alarm**, Billings, May 18-19, visit www.montanaredcross.org



RED CROSS MILESTONES (January & February)

- LORA ERCANBRACK, 5 years
- JOHN PEREGOY, 5 years
- NANCY ADAIR, 5 years
- JUDY WREDE, 5 years
- BRIAN WREDE, 5 years
- THERESA MUNIZ, 5 years

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: ERIN BRAY OF MISSOULA

It started with a flyer

For Erin Bray, it all began with a simple flyer on a college campus. While going to school at Carroll College in Helena, Bray happened upon a Red Cross call-out for volunteers to help families affected by house fires. The opportunity worked around her class schedule so she decided to give it a try.

“There was no major epiphany, just a simple silly flyer,” Bray said.

But it turned out to be a commitment she would make for decades.

Twenty years later, after becoming an attorney, Bray is still volunteering with Red Cross, now helping to lead the training of other volunteers to respond to incidents like the single-family fires where she got her start. Along the way, she’s contributed in about every capacity imaginable, from health and safety services, training international humanitarian law, to assisting military members and their families

“I’ve dabbled a lot,” she said of her various Red Cross roles.

But it’s her role as a volunteer trainer, Bray said, that has been most rewarding.

“I remember their first individual case work, being there to support them in that role, watching them build that connection with the client,” she said. “That’s what sticks with me more than anything I’ve



done as an individual.”

Early in her Red Cross career, Bray remembers going through a box with an assortment of Red Cross pins, including one recognizing volunteers who served the organization for 20 years.

“I’ll get this one someday,” she told herself.

In December, Bray was presented with a 20-year pin.

“It’s a commitment, but it’s incredibly rewarding. You’re helping people during the hardest part of their lives.”

“It’s an incredible opportunity.”

— By Matt Ochsner

Caught you at your best



Volunteer Diana Ochsner of Jerome, right, during her deployment to Texas to provide Hurricane Harvey relief. Send photos to matthew.ochsner@redcross.org.

In the know ...

■ **SERVICE TO THE ARMED FORCES:** Sara Cease is the new SAF program manager in Montana. Sara lives in Helena and has 12 years of experience working with military families. To read more about Sara, visit www.redcross.org/montana.



■ **DEVELOPMENT:** Albertsons Companies and their customers recently raised more than \$64,000 for Montana wildfire relief through a customer-giving campaign. Na-

tionally, Albertsons Companies and its customers also raised \$1.4 million for Red Cross hurricane relief.

■ **COMMUNICATIONS:** We have debuted a new Instagram page. Search for [Idaho.montana.redcross](https://www.instagram.com/Idaho.montana.redcross) to check it out or send photos to matthew.ochsner@redcross.org.

■ **BIOMED:** Blood and platelet donations are going out the door as quickly as they are coming in. Give if you can by scheduling an appointment at rcblood.org/appt.

Log your hours and win a prize!

Log your volunteer hours and take part in this year’s hour incentive program. It’s a great way to score some awesome Red Cross gear. Thanks to last year’s winners for selecting the prizes.



Humanitarian services volunteers at the

100-hour milestone receive a Red Cross T-shirt.

Those at the 20-hour milestone get a Red Cross notebook. If you



have questions email danielle.pozernick@redcross.org.