Blood Needs in Times of Disaster

The Community Blood Center
Appleton, WI

Some information & pictures courtesy of America’s Blood Centers
An Ample Supply

• The Community Blood Center works to keep 1,000 units of blood in inventory
• Meets daily needs
• Provides a foundation in times of disaster
Because...

In an emergency, it’s the blood already on the shelves that saves lives.
How much blood was needed?

#1 Bridge Collapse in Minneapolis
#2 Oklahoma City Bombing
#3 World Trade Center attacks (9-11)
#4 Pentagon attack (9-11)

A. Under 300 units per event
B. 300-500 units per event
C. 500-700 units per event
D. Over 700 units per event

it's about life.
How much blood is needed each week by the Community Blood Center?

A. Under 300 units each week
B. 300-500 units each week
C. 500-700 units each week
D. Over 700 units each week
Units of Blood Needed

- Pentagon Attack (9-11): 34 units
- Bridge Collapse in Minneapolis: 44 units
- Oklahoma City Bombing: 131 units
- World Trade Center Attacks (9-11): 224 units

Weekly Hospital Needs: 1000 units
Major disasters do not usually require a lot of blood, but that's when blood centers see the most donors.
Sometimes Blood is Needed

When blood center facilities are damaged by disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina or the Haiti earthquake, blood centers pull together to send blood to the affected areas.

Sometimes blood shipments continue for months.
Most of the Time…

Blood Center facilities are unaffected by disasters.

Blood Centers focus on:
#1 Supplying necessary blood
#2 Managing a large outpouring of blood donors
After a disaster, large numbers of people who want to donate often overwhelm blood centers.

*Line outside Waco Donor Center West after a Fertilizer Plant Explosion in West, TX*
*Picture provided by Carter BloodCare*
Blood centers have a limited number of trained staff, screening areas, and donation beds.

There are logistical limits on the number of people who can donate in an hour, day, or week.
Good Stewardship

Also, the Community Blood Center strives to be a good steward of the blood supply.

What does this mean?

They don’t want to collect more blood than is needed.
In emergencies, the Community Blood Center may:

- Accept donations only from specific blood types (such as type O; or A-, B- and O-).
- Encourage people to come to their next scheduled appointment.
- Turn people away, and ask them to donate in several weeks.

As a result...
If there’s a disaster and blood is needed, the Community Blood Center will let people know!

If people don’t hear from the blood center about the need for blood, the best way to help is by coming to their next scheduled appointment, whether it’s 2 or 5 weeks after a disaster.
How You Can Help:

#1 Become a blood donor and donate several times each year, especially near holidays

#2 In times of disaster, investigate the need for blood before you donate

#3 Spread the word about what you know!