

Mega-Shelter Assistance Team (MAT) Volunteer Opportunities with the American Red Cross

The Mega-Shelter Assistance Team is a partnership project between IAAM and the American Red Cross. Its purpose is to connect an IAAM Facility Manager with significant facility management skills and experience with the Red Cross in the event of a major disaster that requires the operation of a mega-shelter.

Mega-Shelter Assistance Team (MAT)

The Red Cross' ability to immediately respond to disaster incidents requires not only Red Cross employees and trained disaster volunteers, but also specifically-skilled, quickly mobilized volunteers who can fill specific needs. The MAT is comprised of such uniquely qualified volunteers with significant senior leadership experience in public assembly facility management and knowledge of mega-sheltering.

Mega-Shelter Assistance Teams will consist of two to four experienced facility managers who will be deployed to a site to assist in coordinating communication with the numerous participating agencies and in supporting the initial operation of a mega-shelter. Teams will be assembled with the best combination of skills and experience based upon the situation and location. A MAT assignment will typically last from 3 to 7 days based on travel and other factors.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement that provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to



emergencies. Each year, the American Red Cross responds immediately to more than 73,000 disasters, including house or apartment fires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hazardous material spills, transportation accidents, explosions, and other natural and man-made disasters.

Red Cross disaster relief focuses on meeting people's immediate emergency disaster-caused needs. When a disaster threatens or strikes, the Red Cross provides safe shelter, food, health and mental health services to address these immediate needs. In addition to immediate services, Red Cross response includes assistance to enable individual and families to resume their normal daily activities independently. Volunteers constitute 90% of the Red Cross workforce and all Red Cross assistance is given free of charge, made possible by the generous contribution of the public's time, money, and skills.

For the MAT program, the Red Cross will offer Red Cross disaster training courses to venue staff and provide deployment assistance including travel arrangements and related expenses to assigned MAT members.

International Association of Assembly Members (IAAM)

IAAM is the 'Acknowledged Leader' regarding public assembly facility management and has members experienced in using arena, stadiums, convention centers, and the like are put to unconventional use as a mega-shelter.

For the MAT program, IAAM will gather information regarding the skills and expertise of interested volunteers, maintain a database of the available professionals, and if a MAT needs to be deployed, identify team members to be activated.

Apply Now - Volunteer

By joining the Mega-Shelter Assistance Team program, individuals will be part of a vital team supporting the American Red Cross and IAAM's efforts to safely and efficiently shelter large numbers of people displaced by disaster.

Information on the MAT Program and the application form can be found at:
http://www.iaam.org/CVMS/mega_shel.htm

