

Post and Courier: Letters to the Editor December 29, 2010

Home fires

Ken Burger's recent column concerning his heart-wrenching experience of losing everything to a home fire just prior to the holiday season reminded me of what local Red Cross volunteers see almost every day. You see, so far this year the American Red Cross, Charleston region, has assisted 1,143 individuals who have been affected by home fires. Home fires are called the silent disasters because they don't receive the publicity of larger scale disasters although they are every bit as devastating to those affected.

Most of the people who are victims of home fires are those who can afford the loss the least; 73 percent have household incomes under \$25,000. It's heartbreaking to see people flee from the scene of a fire with only a few possessions that could fit in a lunch bag.

For the third year, I have had the privilege of being the chair of the Red Cross Heroes for Fire Victims Campaign. We raise funds from the community to allow the Red Cross to provide emergency services to fire victims.

The Red Cross is the only service organization that responds to the scene of home fires at the request of the responding fire department and provides emergency assistance in the form of food, shelter, clothing and emotional support.

During this season of giving I would like to encourage our very generous community to consider being a hero by making a tax-deductible donation to the American Red Cross, if you are able.

I guarantee you will be blessed knowing what a difference your gift makes. Visit www.LowcountryRedCross.org to make a secure on-line donation or call 764-2323. And please, take action to minimize the risk of a fire occurring in your own home.

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