

ARRL Statement on Red Cross Background Checks
October 24, 2006

The American Red Cross has recently notified their local chapters that their volunteers and staff members must submit to a criminal background check. There are some sound reasons as to why these criminal background checks were required. The Red Cross didn't want the possibility of having a person with a history of violent crime representing them while assisting disaster victims.

The list of volunteers who are being asked to submit to the background checks has been enlarged to include volunteers with other organizations who assist the Red Cross during times of disaster relief efforts, such as amateur radio operators volunteering through their local ARES unit.

In short, we have been told that any volunteer who would be assisting the Red Cross disaster relief effort in any way would be required to complete the background check through the Red Cross's third party provider, www.mybackgroundcheck.com.

The ARRL recommends to anyone submitting their information to the www.mybackgroundcheck.com to read VERY carefully what they are giving the Red Cross permission to check. The Red Cross is requiring volunteers to grant permission for more than just a criminal background check. They are also requiring permission to draw a consumer and/or investigative consumer report on the volunteer. This would include a criminal background check, credit check and a mode of living check.

This is much more information than would be obtained in a criminal background check that the Red Cross states that they need. The information below in red letters is copied from the www.mybackgroundcheck.com website for Red Cross background checks.

Additionally, information you are requested/required to give on this website is: name, address, social security information, driver's license number, and date of birth ...all good pieces of information an identity thief needs to open up accounts in your name.

The Red Cross has stated that they will not use credit reports. Requiring that volunteers authorize the procurement of a credit report is inconsistent with this assurance.

We have been told that ALL volunteers that would assist the Red Cross in any fashion during disaster relief efforts other than just very short times are also required to complete background checks at this website.

American Red Cross ("RED CROSS") will procure a consumer report and/or investigative consumer report on you for the limited purpose of evaluating you for a position with RED CROSS. MyBackgroundCheck.com, LLC ("MBC") an affiliate of Pre-employ.com, or any agent of MBC, will obtain the report for RED CROSS. MyBackgroundCheck.com is located at 2301 Balls Ferry Road, Anderson, California 96007 and can be reached at 800-300-1821.

The report will contain any written, oral, or other communication of any information by a consumer reporting agency bearing on your credit worthiness, credit standing, credit, capacity, character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living which is used or expected to be used or collected in whole or in part for the purpose of serving as a factor in establishing the consumer's eligibility for (A) employment purposes; or (B) any other purpose authorized under section 604 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act. The types of information that may be obtained include, but are not limited to: credit reports, social security number verification, criminal records checks, public court records checks, driving records checks, educational records checks, verification of employment positions held, personal and professional references checks, licensing and certification checks, etc. The information contained in the report will be obtained from private

and/or public record sources, including sources identified by you or through interviews or correspondence with your past or present coworkers, neighbors, friends, associates, current or former employers, educational institutions or other acquaintances. I understand that while the information contained in the report or reports provided has been obtained by various third parties from public record data sources deemed reliable, their accuracy cannot be guaranteed due to potential human error in the actual recording or retrieval of the record.

The nature and scope of this disclosure and authorization is all-encompassing, however, allowing RED CROSS to obtain from any outside organization all manner of consumer reports and/or investigative consumer reports now and, if you are hired, throughout the course of your employment to the extent permitted by law. As a result, you should carefully consider whether to exercise your right to request disclosure of the nature and scope of any investigative consumer report.

You are nonetheless entitled to request more information about the nature and scope of such reports by submitting a written request to: MyBackgroundCheck.com, Compliance Department, P.O. Box 491570, Redding, Ca. 96049 or by fax to 888-999-3839.