



**The pictures you see  
to the right and left are  
rather dramatic, aren't they.**

We see firemen, Haz-Mat teams, paramedics, stretchers, Red Cross volunteers, blood, and people in physical and mental anguish.

**IT IS JUST A DRILL.**

All of the agencies and organizations involved in disaster response need to periodically engage in practice drills that are realistic as possible.

We will see this kind of realism when we participate in our own multi-agency disaster drill here in Nashville in April.

As you can see, many of the people shown on this page seriously buried themselves in their roles, portraying the kind of tension, frustration, pressure, and mental distress experienced by victims and responders in a real disaster.

For our disaster drill in Nashville, we need volunteers to fulfill another highly specialized role -

**From the ranks of Social Workers, Psychiatrists, Psychologists and Counselors, we need drill participants to fill the roles of those who will deal with the emotionally distressed.**

This is why I am writing you. Would you be willing to play a special role in this disaster drill?

On April 7 and 8, 2006 the American Red Cross will be partnering with Homeland Security District 5, which consists of Davidson, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson counties, in a large full-scale disaster preparedness exercise.

The Greater Nashville Homeland Security District 5 "Emergency Preparedness Challenge" will be one of the largest exercises ever planned at the local level. This drill will involve responders from more than 40 local, state and Federal agencies and more than 2,200 volunteers.

If you would like to participate in our local disaster drill in your capacity as a mental health professional with the Red Cross, please contact Miriam McFadden at 352-9072 ([MFMcFad@juno.com](mailto:MFMcFad@juno.com)) or call Patricia Gray at 250-4298 ([GrayPa@usa.redcross.org](mailto:GrayPa@usa.redcross.org)).

Thank you so much.

