



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLOOD ASSURANCE IS SENDING BLOOD TO THE EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED AREA OF ALASKA

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (Nov. 30, 2018) Blood Assurance is currently sending blood to Alaska in the aftermath of a 7.0 earthquake that struck near Anchorage around 8:30 a.m. AST.

At this time, the blood bank in the area has sustained damages and is unable to accept donors. It could be closed for several days and the blood bank is in need of help obtaining the blood their local hospitals and patients need.

“At Blood Assurance, it is believed that blood is not the possession of those who collected it, but an important resource that must be shared in times of need,” said J.B. Gaskins, president and CEO of Blood Assurance. “We will always do our part to help others when we are able, and we are only able to do so because of our generous donors.

Blood Assurance is continuing to communicate with the blood suppliers in the affected area and will continue to help if needed.

At this time, Blood Assurance is asking people of all blood types to come give blood, platelets, and plasma. Help is needed to replenish what was sent and Blood Assurance is also currently low on some types. Your donor care specialist will be able to tell you which donation type will best help your community.

Contact your local Blood Assurance if you are interested in donating plasma or platelets. Some Blood Assurance facilities are open on Saturday. Blood Assurance is closed on Sunday. If you are interested in donating whole blood, would like to schedule an appointment for a whole blood donation, or would like to know the operating hours

of your local Blood Assurance facility, please call 800.962.0628, text BAGIVE to 444999, or visit www.bloodassurance.org.

To be eligible to donate blood, you must be at least 18 years old (16 and 17 years old with parental consent), weigh 110 pounds or more and be in good health. Donors are asked to drink plenty of fluids — avoiding caffeine — and eat a meal that is rich in iron prior to donating.

About Blood Assurance

Blood Assurance is a nonprofit, full-service regional blood center serving 51 counties and more than 75 health care facilities in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and Virginia. Over 540 volunteer blood donors are needed every day in order to adequately supply these hospitals. Founded in 1972 as a joint effort of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society, the Chattanooga Area Hospital Council, and the Chattanooga Jaycees, the mission of Blood Assurance is to provide a safe and adequate supply of blood and blood components to every area patient in need. Blood Assurance is based in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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